

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • NOVEMBER 1998



Kids rallied for the new Mission Library; the big kid in the hat seemed to be in charge.

Photo by Arthur Hudson



Youth on the march. Photo by Arthur Hudson

Support you local library!

The Mission Library Fund Raising Campaign hit full stride on October 20th when hundreds of school kids, accompanied by Supervisor Jose Medina, City Treasurer and Campaign Chair Susan Leal and other city officials, paraded down Mission street to the site of the Mission Branch Library which is now undergoing a \$3.8 million restoration.

At a rally outside the 24th and Bartlett building, Mayor Willie Brown told a enthusiastic crowd, "I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for the community to step forward and participate in this campaign."

Library Improvement and other bonds will cover only building renovation work. In order to make the library a first rate facility the campaign is seeking to raise \$320,000 for computers, furnishings and other resources. One of the largest donations, \$50,000 from Wells Fargo Bank for

the Children's Reading Room, was presented at the rally. An additional \$75,000 was secured from the City's budget by Supervisor Medina.

Organizers expect to reach and exceed their goal through a series of events beginning next month when a group of Mission businesses will donate 10% of their November 21st sales to the Campaign. (See page 2). Upcoming events include a poetry contest and a benefit author reading at the Marsh Theater.

The refurbished state of the art library - scheduled to re-open on Cinco de Mayo, 1999 - will include a computer tutoring room, a larger main reading room, a new elevator and (finally) heating. The Mission branch will also keep its multicultural identity by maintaining an extensive collection of Spanish and Chinese materials.

For more information or to join the Campaign call 557-4257.

Is Mission Street ready to boom?

Residents and merchants consider prosperity and its perils

By Sonya Geis

Valencia Street has been enjoying a commercial boom for the last few years. Now, many people think it's Mission Street's turn to show some economic muscle. How the expected change will impact local residents and businesses is now Topic A among those who keep an eye on development, jobs and housing in the Mission.

Residents and workers are concerned about the need for parking, poor quality of storefront appearance, and public safety on Mission Street, according to a survey conducted by the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA). MEDA reported the results of the survey, and facilitated small group discussions between residents and merchants on October 3, at the first of three public meetings for their Mission Street Corridor Project.

About 100 people attended the meeting at MEDA's offices in the Bay View Bank building at 22nd and Mission Streets. Most were Mission residents. MEDA provided translation services, but only five people used these services. "We need to do some outreach to Spanish-speakers," said Luis Granados, an Economic Development Specialist at MEDA.

MEDA received over 400 responses to their survey. Half of the respondents

were employed by businesses located on Mission Street, and a quarter of them were business owners. The remaining 22 percent were residents. Among the findings: Three-quarters of respondents rated storefront appearance on Mission Street as below average, and 67 percent rated public safety below average.

Sixty five percent of those surveyed felt that the quality of public transportation was above average, but only 39 percent thought that accessibility to that public transportation was above average. Mission Street's restaurants were the only aspects of the corridor that respondents rated as "above average" more often than they rated as "average." Eighty percent of all respondents said they wanted more parking space in the area, and 78 percent said they wanted a youth center. Bars and adults stores were the only types of businesses that respondents said they wanted to see "less of in the future."

One Mission resident at the meeting pointed out that these concerns might reflect the preferences of business people in the neighborhood, and that business concerns and resident concerns may not always be aligned.

Parking

The issue of parking is one example of possible controversy. According to Raquel Medina executive director of MEDA, "Merchants are always concerned about

Continued on Page 9

WHO'S BEHIND THE YUPPIE ERADICATION PROJECT? SEE PAGE 10

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLE MIGDEN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1997-98

HEALTH

- Safe hypodermic needles to protect health care workers

CHILDREN

- Tobacco advertising prohibited near schools.
- Funding to train more childcare workers.

ENVIRONMENT

- \$240 million to purchase and protect Headwaters Forest and other endangered forests.

THE ARTS

- Asian Art Museum, \$5 million for renovation and earthquake safety.
- Conservatory of Flowers, \$2 million for repairs and earthquake safety.



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Ash Bhatt for Board of Education

"Students who cannot read cannot succeed"

A firm believer in the importance of education fundamentals, Ash Bhatt seeks to implement a philosophy of parental involvement and student responsibility. He will make Reading, Science and Mathematics classroom priorities once again. Ash Bhatt has also developed an innovative plan to expand computer use at every school in the district within four years.

Ash Bhatt is a parent, businessman and community leader. He has served on the Welfare/Workfare Employment Commission, Delinquency Prevention Commission of San Francisco, and the Prevention of Hate Crimes Commission. Encouraged by Assemblyman Kevin Shelley to run for the Board of Education, he was recently appointed as a delegate to the California Democratic Party by State Senator John Burton. *Vote for Ash Bhatt on Nov. 3.*

Elect Ash Bhatt to the SF Board of Education

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ash Bhatt, William F. McLaughlin, Treasurer, ID# 94-33069



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Honorary Co-Chairs/Co-Líderes Honorarios: Carlos and Deborah Santana, Cheech Marin

Campaign Chair/Líder de la Campaña: Susan Leal

Mission Library Committee/ Raquel Medina, Chair/Líder

Comité de la Biblioteca de la Misión:

Barbara Berman, Hilda Bernstein, Deborah Doyle, Gwen Kaplan, Ethel Newlin, Roy Nonomura, RosaBella Safont

The Mission Library Fund is a project of the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. / El Fondo de la Biblioteca de la Misión es un proyecto de Los Amigos de la Biblioteca y La Fundación de la Biblioteca.



Letters to the Editor

Car Casualties

Editor:

Kudos to the Mission News for consistently covering news related to bicyclists, pedestrians and the rank-and-file humans who live and die in the Mission. Mary Brown's article about the death of cyclist Rebecca Kresse was the only piece I saw that treated its subject as someone other than anonymous road kill.

I am a nurse at SF General Hospital and I am painfully aware of the blood on the streets. Dan Merer RN, my colleague in the emergency room, tells me that one of the most common ways to end up a customer there is to get struck by a motor vehicle. "People think we see people who are getting spat on by someone with AIDS, or hit over the head by a homeless person, but the real way people are injured is while innocently walking down the street." A week before Rebecca was killed I received a phone call at my clinic job from another nurse who wanted to hear how a girl was doing in the ICU who was struck by a car in front of James Lick Middle School.

Some things can and must be done immediately to protect our public health. First of all, I believe the city must be forced to comply with the bicycle plan that will calm traffic on some key routes. The Department of Parking and Traffic rejected some modest proposals and therefore has blood on its hands. The San Francisco Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) sponsored a study that found unsafe traffic conditions at 99% of SF's public schools. Where are the oversized signs and flashing lights that could prevent death and injury to our most vulnerable residents?

Drugs and guns receive an inordinate amount of attention considering how much greater is the risk of injury and death from cars. Our schools must be given the resources to do at least as good a job teaching children about car danger as it does about sexually transmitted disease. Bicycle and skating helmets should be provided at low or no cost in the schools.

If you drive a car, start a revolution: slow down. Let 'em honk. If you ride a bike: wear a helmet, claim your lane and your right to public space. If you drive for Muni, ignore unrealistic time-tables, slow down, and demand that the city allow you to operate safely.

Sasha Cutler, RN

Yes on E!

Editor,

In the 1950's transportation planners embarked on a policy to ram freeways through the hearts of America's cities. The damage done to communities is well documented.

Here in San Francisco plans were made for an extensive system of elevated highways throughout the City. Fortunately citizens outraged by the construction of the Embarcadero and Central Freeways, rose up to stop the highway planners from destroying homes and neighborhoods from the Sunset to the Marina.

In a few days San Franciscans will decide the fate of the last vestige of that failed freeway plan. Proposition E, if it

passes, would replace the earthquake-damaged portion of the Central Freeway with a system of new ramps and a landscaped boulevard similar to that which replaced the Embarcadero Freeway. According to the planners, architects and engineers who developed this plan, it would move traffic as well or better than a plan approved last year to retrofit and widen the existing structure. But by removing the blight of the elevated roadway and replacing a portion of it with new housing, it would have the added advantage of improving the neighborhoods that were decimated when the freeway was built 40 years ago.

As we move into the 21st Century, we have found there's a better way to move people that can enhance rather than destroy neighborhoods. The proposed Boulevard plan affords voters the chance to correct a 1950's mistake. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. San Franciscans should seize that opportunity and vote Yes on Proposition E.

Robin F. Levitt, Architect

Lawless Buttheads

Editor-

The anti-smoking laws need to be enforced! Smoking and open defiance is alive and well under Mayor Willie Brown and this current Board of Supervisors. Second-hand smoke, which is a health hazard, is going on in the Noe Valley, Glen Park and Mission Districts.

Some Bartenders even give ashtrays to customers and light their cigarettes when there are No-Smoking signs posted. Non smokers spend money and have rights too. The law has become a laughing matter. This lawlessness allowed by the mayor and supervisors will lead to anarchy and spread out to the breakdown of law and order.

This lawlessness is allowed by the saloon owners and smokers. The police are ineffective and afraid to enforce the law, because the people in City Hall are afraid to enforce it and won't take a stand. Somebody do something! News media, where are you?

R. Sunday

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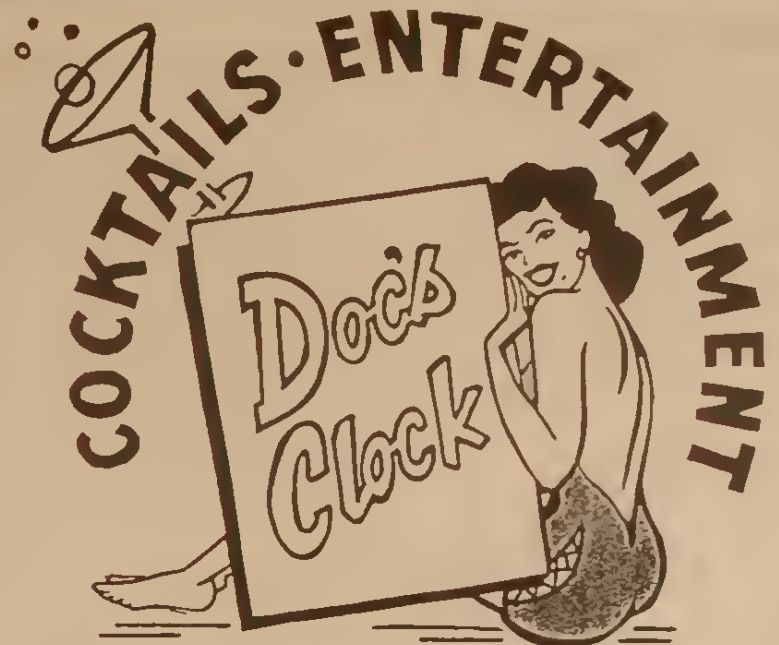
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GUARDIAN

New Mission News Election Endorsements

Proposition A - NO

The cops are asking for more money at a time when police shootings are on the rise. Recently, two highly suspicious incidents resulted in the deaths of Sheila Detoy and John Smart. Since the existing mechanisms to control excessive force simply do not work, the most effective way of making the cops rein in the small minority in their ranks that are a danger to the public is by rejecting benefit package increases they put before the voters.

Proposition B - NO

This proposition, which requires city departments to prepare a customer service plan, is a campaign gimmick cooked up by Supervisor Gavin Newsom. It does nothing to address the real problem: too many bureaucrats treat the public like dirt.

Proposition C - Yes

The city's hard working paramedics have gotten less than they deserve in terms of a pension plan; a yes vote corrects that situation.

Proposition D - Yes

Nobody is happy with the taxi industry in this town, except a few fat cat owners. Taking oversight responsibility away from the Police Department and Police Commission and putting it in the hands of a commission that includes drivers and consumers is a move in the right direction.

Proposition E - Yes

The city that freeways least, freeways best. Don't give in to car compulsion - just say yes to a better environment.

Proposition F - Yes

Voters already approved this city sales tax on Giants' and the 49ers' tickets but state proposition 218 requires that it be done all over again. Sports fans that pay three bucks for a bag of peanuts won't miss the cash.

Proposition G - Yes

This proposition provides real protections for renters endangered by owner move in evictions. While opponents claim it infringes on the rights of perspective homeowners, the initiative in fact protects tenants from a bunch of greedy bastards rolling in dough and who are willing to toss people out into the street so they can roll around in more of it. The weak "protections" in the legislation passed by the supervisors are not sufficient to stop the wholesale evictions now underway.

Proposition H - Yes

The city's current hotel tax surcharge of 2% funds a lot of arts and recreation programs. Because the revenue goes into the General Fund, a lot of it gets diverted by the cupidity of politicians, but then that's true of almost every thing else. Once again this is something already approved by the voters that state proposition 218 requires be put before them once again.

Proposition I - No

As long as we have BART, there's no point in sticking a rail system into the new design of the Bay Bridge, just make BART more efficient. What's next for the Bay Bridge? Horse trails? Pogo stick access?

Proposition J - Yes

If passed, this would allow the City to look into ways to set up a voluntary health care purchasing program that, in theory, would benefit the thousands of San Franciscans with no health care, or with health care whose costs are oppressive. Sure, it's a campaign gimmick, but it's a really good



one. A tip of the hat to the guy who came up with it; Willie Brown.

Board of Supervisors - Ammiano, Petroni, Bermudez, Stair, Marquez

The current board as a whole is lacking a few anatomical parts, namely brains, backbone and guts. Tom Ammiano is one exception, so vote for him even though he's an incumbent. Victor Marquez is a civil rights attorney and long time Mission guy, familiar with the problems and needs of our community. Vote for him too. There are also some fairly militant progressive folks in the race who would probably liven things up if elected and could be counted on to further counterbalance the Brown Imperium. They are Carlos Petroni, Lucretia Bermudez, and Tahnee Stair.

If you're not in a rad/lib kindo mood, incumbent Mark Leno has been doing a pretty good job.

Board of Education - Kelly, Vela, Coxson

Change the Board before all our public schools are turned over to for-profit corporations. The only incumbent in the running that opposed the privatization of Edison School is Dan Kelly; re-elect him. Mauricio Vela has promised to fight for the survival of Newcomer High school, which is next on Bill Rojas' hit list. Mission resident Pamela Coxson is a teacher, and as member of the Green Party, outside the Democratic Party Machine. She has also devoted many hours of volunteer time to Edison School and was an early opponent of privatization. These are three strong candidates who would defy the Rojas Imperium.

Community College Board - Grier, Finn, Montoya

Anita Grier is a teacher and former City College student who will provide the necessary reality-based judgement lacking in the present Board, which functions primarily as an incubator for not-quite-ready-for-prime-time Democratic Party toadies. Chris Finn and Moises Montoya are rad/progressive activists who will give the Board an edge and the machine some well-deserved attitude.

Senator - Barbara Boxer

Her opponent is a psychotic pineapple who supports bringing back "Star Wars" (the missile program, not the movie) so he can suck up to defense contractors.

Governor - Gray Davis

His opponent is a psychotic pineapple who wants to bring back the Middle Ages.

Proposition 1a - Yes

This bond issue will provide \$9.2 billion to build some new schools, which we really need, and to repair our existing schools - whluch, you may have noticed, are falling apart.

Proposition 1 - Yes

If this passes owners who improve their property by removing toxic materials will not be assessed at a higher rate because the property increases in value. Under the current law there is a financial disincentive to clean up your act. Some corporations will make out pretty good on this but so will the environment.

Proposition 2 - Yes

Tax revenues designated for transportation projects are often hijacked by politicians for pork barrel purposes; this will make it harder to do that.

Proposition 3 - No

This is an attempt by the Democratic and Republican Partics to overturn California's open primary system. Don't let them do it.

Proposition 4 - Yes

This measure puts a stop to the use of some of the nastier types of animal traps and poisons.

Proposition 5 - Yes

Indians want control of casino gaming on their reservations. Nevada gambling interests are trying to stop them. Give the Indians what they want.

Proposition 6 - No

If this passes, your dog will be able to eat horsemeat but you won't. You should have all the rights your dog has and a few more.

Proposition 7 - Yes

OK, giving tax credits to corporations to remove the pollutants their operations put in the air is welfare for the rich, and they

should be made to do it at their own expense anyway. But by the time they're forced to be environmentally correct, we'll all have emphysema, black lung or worse. So let's just clean the air.

Proposition 8 - No

Governor Wilson's version of school reform includes government councils to battle for jurisdiction with local school boards, and a chief inspector (whose scope and powers resemble those of a special prosecutor) to monitor teacher performance. It's opposed by nearly every educational and parent group in the state. All bureaucracy is bad, but Republican bureaucracy is the worst.

Proposition 9 - Yes

Not only does this measure stick power companies with the bill for losses they incurred by foolishly investing in nuclear power but it also offers a 20% reduction in utility bills. Utility companies, who planned on you and me paying for their radioactive mistakes, are squealing, appropriately, like stuck pigs.

Proposition 10 Yes

This is another heavy tax on cigarettes that would finance a variety of child health and education programs throughout the state. Smokers will bear the cost and the rest of us get a free ride. Well, they're dumb and they smell bad, so they're fair game.

Proposition 11 - Yes

This proposition just makes it easier for counties and cities to share tax revenues for joint projects.

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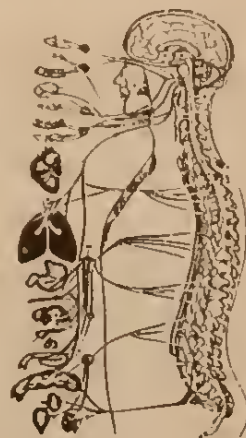
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Lisa Milos



No sympathy for the Devil

FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS hard to believe that the world could be so righteous. Pinochet arrested? I just couldn't allow myself to rejoice, not yet, not until I knew him to be tried and imprisoned for his crimes.

A bitter shame overtook me. It took judges and police of other countries to arrest him but even so, the Chilean government behaved in the most cowardly of ways: defending the "senator for life" with arguments about national sovereignty and diplomatic immunity.

National sovereignty? Did Pinochet's "Operation Condor" respect national sovereignties? There was no safe place anywhere in the world. Not even Washington D.C., where Allende's exminister, Orlando Letelier and his secretary, Ronnie Moffit, a United States citizen, were car-bombed.

Diplomatic immunity? Since when has there been immunity for crimes against humanity?

Some people say why not forgive and forget? Even if the actual victims were able to forgive, what about the others? The family members, friends or other compatriots, those that were aware of what was happening at the time both within and outside of Chile, those that had to stand by helplessly and witness in fear. State terrorism leaves many, many victims.

A survivor: 'They burned me, father'

I remember the scarred, disfigured face of Carmen Gloria Quintana during the Pope's visit to Santiago in 1987. She had survived the immolation by Pinochet's army in 1986. Rodrigo Rojas de Negri, a Chilean-American citizen did not. As Carmen kissed the Pope's hand with her burnt lips, she silently cried, "They burned me, Father."

The Lieutenant that had poured gasoline on them and struck the match was promoted to captain in Pinochet's army. He and many others like him are still serving within the Chilean armed forces.

I remember the massacre during the night of Corpus Christi in 1988. Within a few hours, three safe houses in three different areas of Santiago had been riddled with bullets. Twelve youth died in supposedly armed confrontations. No survivors.

The only ones that dared to protest were those who had already lost everything: the families of the disappeared, executed and imprisoned. The next day in Santiago, about 300 women went out in full force. No matter how many times they were beaten down with police clubs, they would get right back up and

spit contempt into the uniformed faces.

I remember the mass euphoria, the tears and embraces when Pinochet lost the plebiscite in October of that same year. Even some police were hugging civilians. The famous opposition slogan "Happiness will come" seemed true for a little while. Then came the watercannons, and armored cars, lest we forget who was still in power.

In September of 1989 Jekkar Ngeme was murdered by Pinochet's police. At 29 years of age, he was a one of the major political leaders of the anti dictatorial struggle. I can't forget the choked cries for justice of the thousands at his funeral.

"We'll decapitate thousands more!"

During one of the many funerals that I attended at the General Cementary, we received a warning I will never forget.. Dragging his hand across his neck like a knife, a police lieutenant said, "We're gonna decapitate thousands more!" (alluding to the three professionals that had been decapitated in 1985).

My partner and I called him and his troops "Assasins!" as they were filing onto their police bus. The lieutenant pointed to me from the bus and dragged his hand again across his neck. In my fear and helplessness, all I could do was turn around, lift my skirt and moon him.

Pinochet just "stepped down" this year from his Commander-in-Chief post to become "Senator for Life": a self attributed title, just like the pardon he gave himself years before.

The armed forces, in protest over his detention in London, again, threatened to take matters into their own hands thereby demonstrating that Pinochet and his family still hold the entire country hostage.

Compassion for old age or old crimes

Compassion? Because he's old and feeble now? First he should be brought to justice, let the jury decide if compassion is warranted. Just as the judicial system in Spain is asking for Pinochet's extradition, the Justice Departments of other countries can also do so. Requests have been presented by Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, France and Italy. In particular, the United States should do so, not only because of American victims but because an act of international terrorism was committed in the nation's capital. Members of congress are aware of this and there has been an overwhelming international cry for justice. The Department of Justice should request extradition of Pinochet to the United States.

El teniente quien los habia rociado de gasolina y prendido el fuego, fue promovido a Capitán. Muchos como el siguen sirviendo en las fuerzas armadas.

Recuerdo la masacre de la noche de Corpus Cristi en 1988. En pocas horas, en tres diferentes sectores de Santiago, tres casas fueron halacadas. Doce jovenes perdieron sus vidas en supuestos "enfrentamientos". No hubo sobrevivientes.

Los únicos que tuvieron el valor de protestar fueron los que ya habian perdido todo: los familiares de los desaparecidos, de los ej. cutados y de los presos políticos. El día después de la masacre en Santiago, aproximadamente 300 mujeres salieron a la calle. Por mas que fueron golpeadas, se levantaban para escupirle la cara a los uniformados.

Recuerdo la euforia masiva, las lágrimas y los abrazos cuando Pinochet perdió el plebiscito en Octubre del mismo año. Incluso, algunos policías se abrazaban con civiles.

El famoso slogan de la oposición "Ya viene la alegría" parecia cumplirse. Por un tiempito. Luego salieron los carros lanza agua y los blindados, para que no olvidáramos quien estaba todavia en el poder.

En septiembre de 1989 Jekar Neghme fue asesinado por la policia secreta de Pinochet. A los 29 años era uno de los líderes importantes en la lucha antidictatorial. No olvidaré nunca los gritos sofocados de dolor pidiendo justicia durante su funeral.

Movía su mano como un cuchillo

Durante uno de los tantos funerales que asistí, en el Cementerio General, recibimos una amenaza que nunca olvidaré: un teniente,

mientras movía su mano como un cuchillo cortando su cuello, nos dijo, "Y vamos a degollar a miles de huevos mas" (aludiendo al degollamiento de tres profesionales opositores, en 1985).

Mi pareja y yo les gritamos "Asesinos" mientras montaban al bus policial. El teniente me señaló desde lejos y de nuevo atravesó su cuello con su mano. En mi miedo e impotencia solo pude hacer una cosa: me di vuelta, levante mi falda y le mostré el trasero.

Recién este año Pinochet ha dejado su puesto de Comandante en Jefe para asumir el de senador vitalicio: un título auto otorgado, tal como se auto otorgo el perdón hace muchos años.

Las fuerzas armadas en protesta por su detención en Londres, otra vez amenazaron con tomar medidas, demostrando que el país entero no ha dejado de ser rehén de Pinochet y su familia.

Compasión? Solo porque está viejo y débil? Primero debería ser llevado a la justicia, y que esta decida si merece compasión.

EU debe unirse al grito internacional

Tal como la justicia española está pidiendo la extradición de Pinochet, otros países también lo están haciendo, como Argentina, Ecuador, México, El Salvador, Francia, Italia. En particular los Estados Unidos lo debe hacer, no solo porque fueron victimados ciudadanos sino que en su propia capital fue cometido un acto de terrorismo internacional. Congresistas norteamericanos están conscientes de esto. Ha habido un grito internacional reclamando justicia: la justicia norteamericana también debería pedir la extradición de Pinochet a este país.

¿Compasión por el Diablo?

DESDE UN PRINCIPIO me pareció difícil creer que el mundo pudiera ser tan justo. Pinochet arrestado?

No podía permitirme la alegría, no todavía, hasta que supiera que había sido juzgado por los crímenes que cometió.

Sin embargo, una vergüenza me abrumo. Fueron jueces y policías de otros países los que lo arrestaron, mientras que el gobierno chileno se comportaba de manera cobarde, defendiendo al "senador vitalicio", reclamando soberanía nacional e inmunidad diplomática.

Soberanía nacional? Acaso la Operación Cóndor de Pinochet respeto las soberanías nacionales? Ningún lugar del mundo era seguro. Ni siquiera Washington D.C., donde fueron asesinados el ex-ministro de Allende, Orlando Letelier y su secretaria, Ronnie Moffit, ciudadana norteamericana.

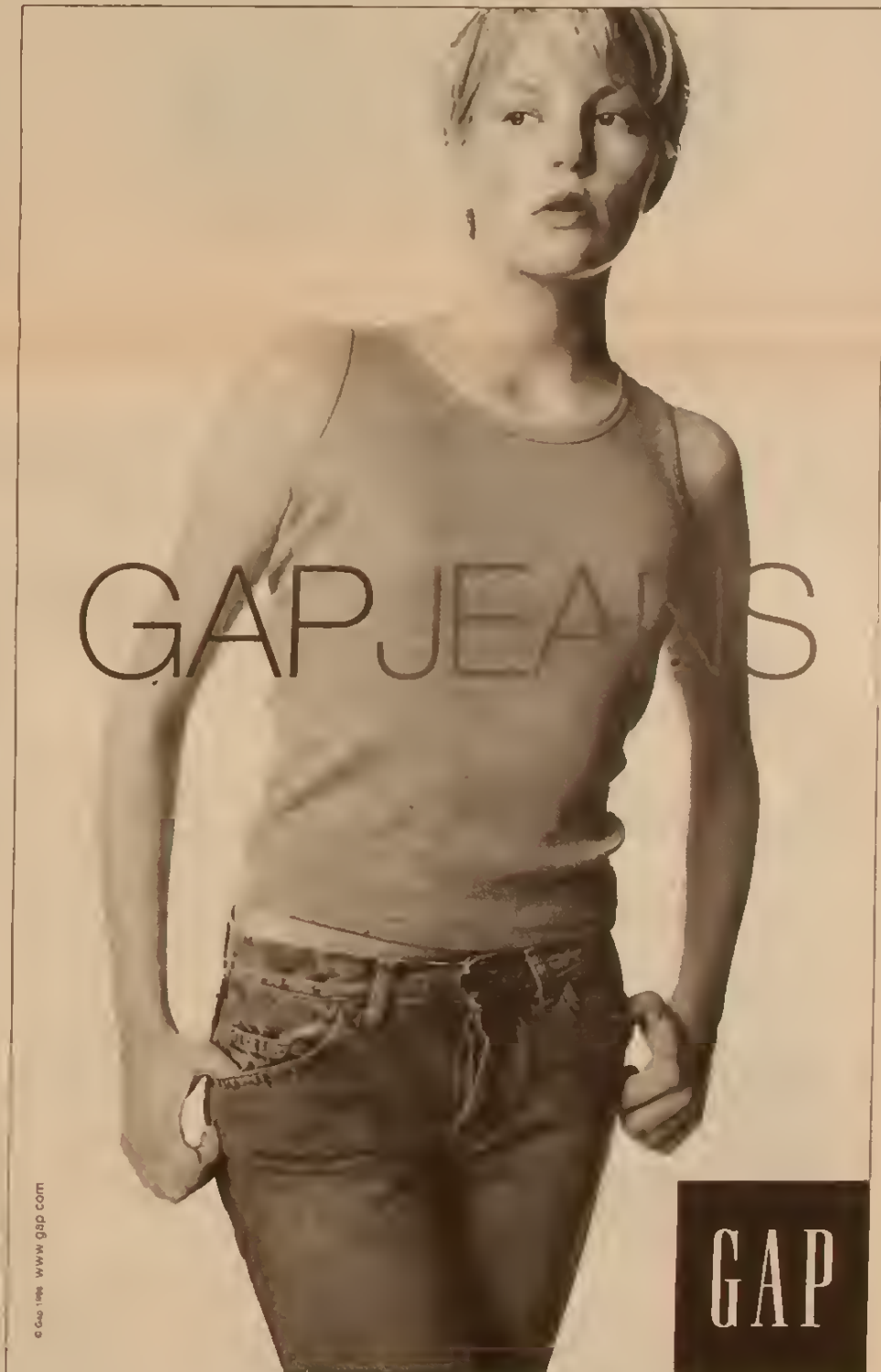
Inmunidad diplomática? Desde cuando

hay inmunidad por crímenes contra la humanidad?

Algunos dicen que habría que perdonar y olvidar. Aun si las víctimas mismas pudieran perdonar, que pasa con los demás? Familias, amigos, compatriotas, aquellos que estaban consciente de lo ocurrido dentro y fuera de Chile, aquellos que tuvieron que ser testigos impotentes por el miedo? El terrorismo de estado deja muchas víctimas.

Fuego a piel: una promoción a Capitán

Recuerdo el rostro desfigurado de Carmen Gloria Quintana durante la visita del Papa a Santiago en 1987. Ella sobrevivió al intento de inmolación cuando el ejército de Pinochet trato de quemarla viva, en 1986. El joven chileno-norteamericano Rodrigo Rojas Denegri no sobrevivió al hecho. Mientras Carmen besaba la mano del Papa con sus labios quemados, lloraba en silencio y le dijo, "Me quemaron, Padre."



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Mission Broadsider



Andy Solow

Field of Fools

In October, Mission District owner-occupier Barbi Schreiber told me that drug addicts, prostitutes, drunks and gang bangers had taken over the former site of Las Americas Children's Center near 20th and Harrison streets. Schreiber wanted to know how to get the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to remove the infestation of evil doers from School District property near her home.

Schreiber said she believed that the District had no intention of tearing down the old Las Americas bungalows but was planning to rent them out and that John O'Connell Technical High School (JOC)

was being rebuilt without an athletic field. She was right! Check it out.

In October 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake seriously damaged the 21st and Harrison Street site of John O'Connell Tech. By September of 1990, the San Francisco Unified School District and the school's staff had completed a plan to renovate the existing building. But, through a series of decisions based on political patronage and the disposition of lucrative building contracts, this plan was ultimately abandoned. Instead, a new plan to move Las Americas Children's Center and George Moscone Elementary School to the old JOC site was favored, and a new JOC campus would be rebuilt at 20th and Harrison Street.

In its June 1994 General Obligation Bond (Prop. A), SFUSD described the Las Americas/Moscone buildings as "temporary" and further alleged that their condition was "critical". At the time, more than 600 parents, community members, and staff from the affected schools signed petitions demanding that the School District abort its plan to tear down Las Americas and Moscone so that the children could keep their existing school sites and open space. But, Prop. A passed and the Mission District schools "site switch" plan was approved by the SF Board of Education over the parents' objections.

The subsequent orgy of "hog trough" feeding by the political patrons of the School Board was unprecedented in recent Mission District history. One can only assume that these clowns were so busy feasting that they forgot to provide an athletic field for JOC students and area residents to use for organized athletic endeavors such as track and field, football, baseball, and soccer.

Hey, Bungalow Bill

On October 20th, SFUSD Director of Management Operations Tim Tronson specifically indicated that the plans approved by the State Architect for the reconstruction of John O'Connell High School do not include an athletic field. At that time, Tronson said that he would stop the lease of the Las Americas bungalows from going to the School Board for approval.

Back in 1994, School Superintendent Bill Rojas declared the old bungalows "unsafe temporary structures that should have been demolished 20 years ago." I have yet to determine the identity of the potential lessee, or what they had planned for these "unsafe substandard" buildings.

Long time Mission resident and JOC parent Vicki Rega said, "Back in 1994, Bill Rojas and Board of Education member Carlotta del Portillo told us that the District needed the Las Americas/Moscone site for John O'Connell so that JOC could have a full size athletic field. Now the District is building a high school for 1,400 charged up adolescents without an athletic field? That's like stockpiling dynamite and waiting for somebody to light a match! Their plan establishes a new bench mark for lunacy and incompetence."

According to School Board Member Jill Wynns, "From the beginning, my understanding was that the whole point of moving JOC to 20th & Harrison was to

provide adequate space for a full size high school with all of the amenities including a full size athletic field." Wynns also indicated that no plans for the JOC rebuild had ever come before the full Board, and that this was the first she had heard that the reconstruction of JOC did not include a full size athletic field. Wynns said she would be asking the Superintendent for an explanation.

At press time, Tim Tronson made the following promise: "I will personally prepare the Board item and paper work necessary to facilitate the installation of a full size athletic field on this site. And, I anticipate that the old pre-existing Las Americas buildings will have to be torn down to accommodate the athletic field." Superintendent Rojas and all of the other School Board members failed to respond to numerous phone calls.

Editors Note: At press time the School District came up with another set of plans for John O'Connell. These appear on the opposite page and presumably depict what we're going to get. The problems of drug dealing, drunks and prostitutes at the bungalows are still unresolved.

Missing cops

At his October 19, 1998 roll call for introductions, Supervisor Amos Brown made a "request for a committee hearing regarding the full staffing of the San Francisco Police Department pursuant to the provisions of the San Francisco Charter. The goal of the hearing will be to determine whether the SFPD can and will come into compliance with the Charter in the near future. As of September 21, the San Francisco Police Department is short 134 officers." Both Supervisor Jose Medina and Deputy City Attorney Marc Slavin agreed that the City has yet to meet the minimum mandated police staffing level.

About two weeks earlier, Supervisor Brown's driver's car was broken into while Brown was attending a meeting in the Mission District. The primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the City's failure to fully staff the Police Department. Said Brown, "This break-in underscores the need to investigate the understaffing of the Police Department. Evidently, the presence of more officers on the streets might facilitate the abatement of such break-ins in broad daylight."

Kudos to Medina

Until recently, bail rates for many crimes committed in San Francisco County were drastically lower than those in the surrounding Counties. Supervisor Medina felt that San Francisco's lower bail rates created an inducement for criminals to come to San Francisco and commit crime.

Due in large part to Medina's efforts, San Francisco's bargain basement bail rates have been raised to parity with those in surrounding counties. For example, prior to October 1, 1998: the bail rate for lewd act with a child under 14 was \$50,000 in San Mateo and only \$20,000 in San Francisco (now \$50,000); the bail rate for possession of cocaine base for sale was \$20,000 in San Mateo and only \$5,000 in SF (now \$15,000); and the bail rate for carrying concealed weapons, ammunition and explosives was \$10,000 in San Mateo and only \$5,000 in SF (now \$10,000). Also notable, the bail for corporal injury by a spouse or person cohabiting was raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000; the bail for assault with attempt to rape was raised from \$20,000 to \$50,000; and the bail for robbery in inhabited dwellings was raised from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Many thanks Supervisor Medina!

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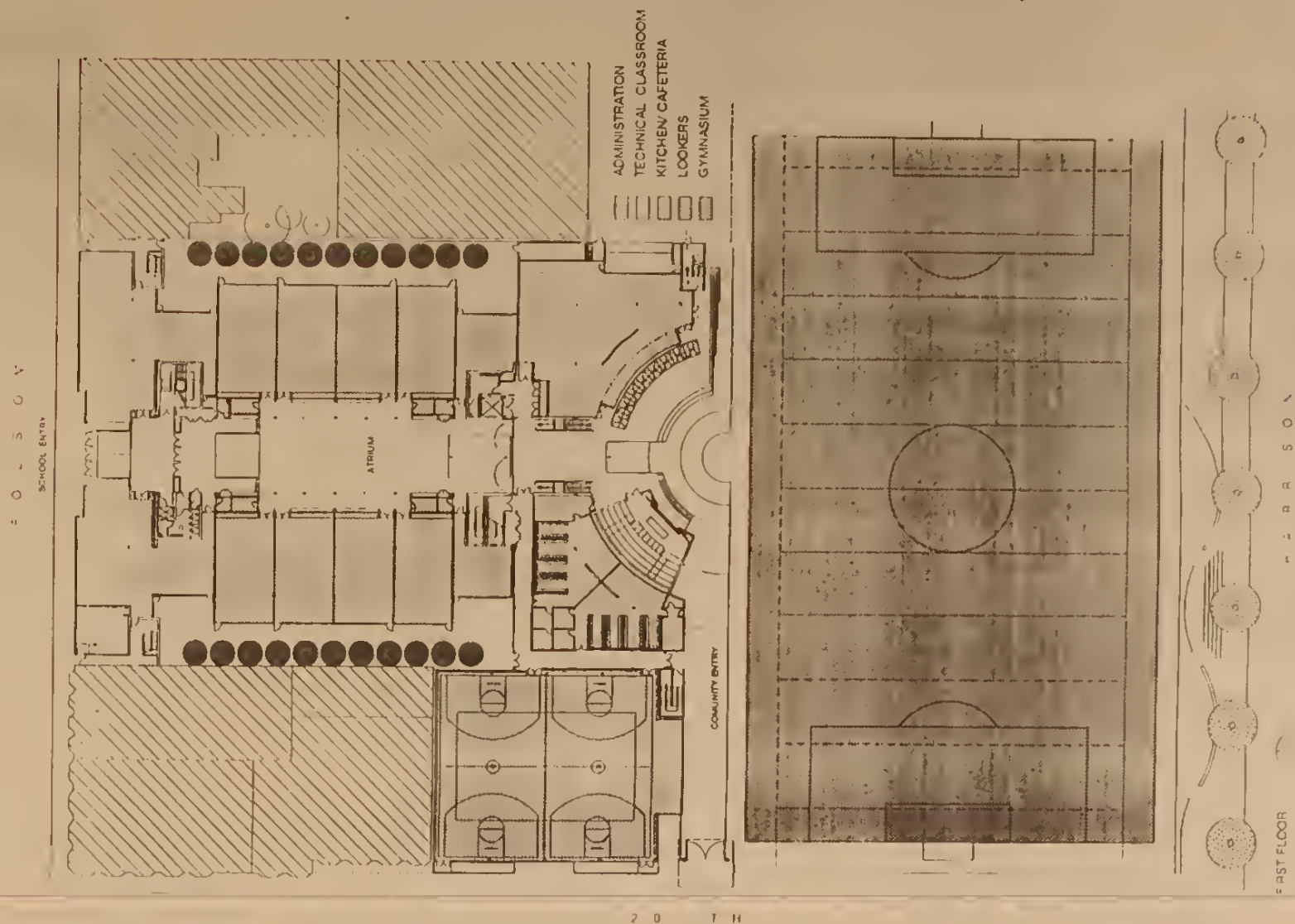
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Site Plan for John O'Connell Technical High School with Athletic Field



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Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (MCJC)
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 424
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RFP applications will be due March 17, 1999 by 5:00 PM
For more information call MCJC at (415) 554-6560

Save the New Mission Theater

by Billy Ray Boyd

Nobody knows how badly the Mission Campus of City College needs a new facility more than those of us who work there. We have "classrooms" partitioned off in the cafeteria or converted from storage rooms or tiny offices; we conduct "spill-over" evening classes at a nearby middle school.

A faculty Site Search Committee worked long and hard without pay to find a new campus site. After numerous dead-end leads, a property was finally found right in the heart of the Mission, which City College bought.

Unfortunately, the property hosts not only the large Giant Value store, whose imminent demise nobody seems to mourn, but the New Mission Theater as well. Since it closed in 1994, the theater has fallen into sad shape; it's now in use as a cheap furniture store. Lots of people grew up here going to movies at the New Mission, and there seems to be quite a bit of community sentiment for saving and restoring it. To complicate things further, that preservationist sentiment is apparently being exploited by some motivated more by self-interest than by concern for the theater.

Is City College locked into a win-lose situation with the community? Are we on a collision course with sincere preservationists? Not necessarily.

If you never saw the New Mission in its glory days, try taking a self-conducted "Imagine" tour to find out what's at stake. It's on Mission Street between 21st and 22nd. Think of the rescued and restored Castro Theater as you wander in off the street like a shopper just perusing.

Imagine this art deco theater in its prime.

Imagine moviegoers strolling in and out, the smell of popcorn. Way in back is the grand auditorium itself.

Imagine a movie playing on the big screen.

Imagine this grand old theater (not just its facade) restored and incorporated into a new Mission Campus.

Imagine it being part of the City College film and theater departments, perhaps working with other schools, film festival organizers, the film industries of other countries.

Imagine ways the theater can be a

Guest Opinion

bridge between campus and community, with film screenings, social dances, live performances, forums for political candidates, film festivals, and community education meetings on domestic violence or changes in immigration law.

As a teacher, I do not want plans for the new campus scuttled. I want a win-win outcome. We can fight those who seek to exploit these concerns for personal gain only if we take the higher ground with a vision that respects preservationist concerns. Mission Campus can forge links with the film and theater departments at Phelan Campus. We can direct our architects to come up with plans to build around and over the theater, renovate it, and incorporate it into the new campus.

This is not just about historical preservation. It's about cultural continuity and honoring the past. The new campus can also be about modeling for a livable future. Current faculty-initiated recycling and resource-minimization programs can inspire us to go farther, with incentives for teachers and staff to leave cars at home, alleviating parking problems and allowing more classrooms to be built. The new building itself can be planned and economically constructed on the social and ecological principles of "green architecture" (http://rmi.org/a_report/gds.html), making the new campus one to be proud of well into a more resource-scarce twenty-first century.

We can have a new campus built with vision and breathe life back into the New Mission Theater. Only two things are required: imagination and the political will to bring it to fruition. It begins with imagination.

Billy Ray Boyd is an ESL Instructor at the Mission Campus of City College of San Francisco. He can be contacted at bboyd@ccsf.cc.ca.us, or 415-487-6335.

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Mission Corridor Continued from Page 1

parking." Now, with City College expected to develop the Giant Value land parcel on Mission Street between 21st and 22nd as a satellite campus, this area can expect more traffic and more competition for parking spaces.

Marilyn Bair, coordinator of the Capp Street Neighbors Association, is worried about what this will mean for her block. "We're delighted that City College is going in there," said Bair, "but we're concerned about the congestion and the traffic." Bair, whose apartment faces the Bay View Bank building's parking lot, is worried that the lot may be turned into a parking garage. "It's a catch-22: if you build a garage, more people will drive their cars here. I guess we're hoping for more people to use public transportation."

Keeping local business

While no one disputes the importance of Mission Street being economically viable, tension does seem to be growing between traditional retail business and newer bars and nightclubs. "I'd like to see new businesses, but we also need to keep those that we already have in the area," said Debbie Miller, manager of Thrift Town and a long-time resident.

While daytime retail businesses are struggling, 'night-life' businesses like Bruno's, Elysium, and Doc's Clock are attracting many people from outside the Area, says Jose Najar, President of the Mission Merchants Association and manager of the Andora Inn. Najar is hoping the boom in night traffic can benefit daytime retail businesses as well. "We see people looking in the windows of the closed shops at night," says Najar, who is organizing a "moonlight sale" on Mission Street, a night for retail stores to stay open late and cash in on the foot traffic.

Mission Records owner Adam White worries that new businesses will drive out established ones by driving up the rent on retail space. When he opened his store between 21st and 22nd Streets last year, White says, "at first our landlords were stoked that we would even take the space." Since then, the rent for that space has increased to more than Mission Records can afford, so last week White moved his business to a more affordable location on Mission, between 18th and 19th Streets.

The future of Mission Street

The Mission Street Corridor Project is an effort to "identify and prioritize potential strategies for improving conditions on Mission Street," according to MEDA's conference materials. The project is focused on the stretch of Mission that runs from 15th Street to 25th Street.

In addition to conducting a survey, MEDA is leading small group discussions and plans to conduct focus groups with youth and other hard-to-reach sectors. Local consulting firms Bay Area Economics, Urban Ecology, and Vital Pathways will gather demographic and economic data on the Mission District and

perform a land use analysis of Mission Street.

The Corridor Project grew out of an idea to convert one of Mission Street's unused theaters back into a movie theater. "We talked to some theater operators, and found that most of them only want to open 15 or 20 screens at a time," said Medina. "There's a lot of competition, and that's what they feel will make it. And they want lots of parking." Medina decided to look at Mission Street as a whole to determine if opening a theater was a priority, or whether there were some other concerns for the neighborhood that were more pressing.


Medina says the study will be used to prepare the neighborhood for several projects coming down the pipeline, such as new development on both the 24th Street and 16th Street BART stations, and the new City College campus. She hopes the Mission will be prepared to take advantage of new money coming into the area. "We can use the study to apply for resources that will benefit all of the Mission: federal, state, and city money, as well as private investment," explains Medina.

"It's easy for people to say what they don't want, but harder for them to say what they do want. And many people are worried that the Mission may lose what it is that gives it a certain 'Latin flavor,' even if they can't name it," says Granados, who is working full time on the Corridor Project. Medina hopes the Corridor Project will point the way for economic revitalization that does not displace people currently living and working in the Mission. But, she says, "it isn't easy to form a consensus" about the future of Mission Street.



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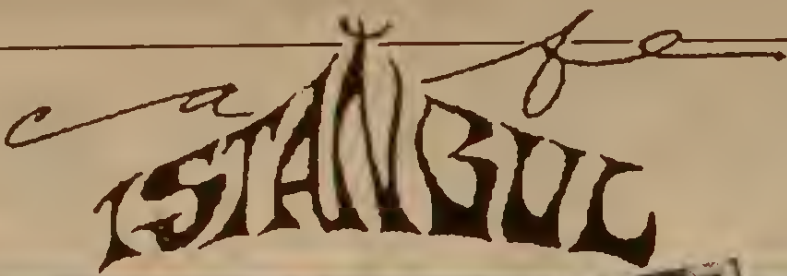
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The YEPies take on the gentry

Nestor Makhno talks about his campaign of vehicle vandalism

By vmiller

Rising rents, owner move-in evictions, and the displacement of long established businesses are the downside of the Mission's recent economic upturn. Many are worried that the community will lose its multicultural and working class character, its artists and its affordability - prosperousness at the price of soullessness. There have been a variety of responses to these issues, none more controversial than the wheat paste posters put up by a group styling itself the Yuppie Eradication Project. The YEPies call for a "Sports Utility Free Zone" and urge people to vandalize luxury automobiles as way to deter the influx of "yuppie" loft buyers and nightlifers into the Mission. They also attack specific local restaurants, primarily for attracting an upscale clientele.

More than a thousand of these placards have appeared on walls and utility poles since June but there is no concrete evidence anybody is actually going out and busting up Beamers as a political statement. There has, however, been a considerable negative reaction to the YEPie campaign among those who feel the Mission's traditional values of tolerance and non-violence have been violated. Many of our readers have asked who these people are and what the hell they think they're doing.

Those questions were answered, in part, by YEPie spokesperson "Nestor Makhno" (a nom de wheat paste), who contacted the New Mission News after being taken to task by columnist Paula Tejeda in last month's issue. Makhno said he is an Anglo in his late thirties, a City College dropout who has lived in the Mission since the early Eighties. He claims to have gotten rid a "Mafia union" at his job when he was 18, and organized rent strikes in the East Bay. He espouses an uncomplicated view of landlord tenant relations - "The only fair rent is no rent at all" - and denies being a skateboarder. Makhno said that currently, he works in the Financial District in the lower levels of the corporate milieu, but sometimes earns a living moving furniture. There was some reluctance to talk about the size of the YEPie group, he admitted only that it was more than two and less than fifty.

The YEPies are apparently opposed to nearly all forms of change, even finding fault with the idea of a neighborhood movie theater, which everybody seems to want. "What kind of movies are they going to show? Are they going to show cop films, films that glamorize the violence of the police? Lethal Weapon Part 58?" Makhno asked.

Based on Makhno's idea of good working conditions, a business like the Joseph Schmidt Chocolate Company that provided 100 jobs when it moved here this year, doesn't measure up to YEPie standards, either. "It'd be good to work there if everybody was getting paid forty bucks an hour for no more than 20 hours a week of work, with full medical and dental. And anybody who is going to college, or has kids going to college, has it paid for by the employer, [plus] four months paid vacation." He said he thought "the neighborhood was developed enough in the early eighties." Count the YEPies in the absolutely no growth camp.

Makhno describes himself as an anti-capitalist revolutionary and dismisses most community issues as being for "policy wonks." He admits to not having been politically active in the Mission before the

YEP posters went up, but says the circumstances demand action: "If I had to establish some kind of pedigree, by that time, the place would be Noe Valley, it would be the Marina."

But is random car bashing really going to make a difference? According to Makhno, "The main measure of success is that it polarizes those of us that are fucked over by capitalism, and gentrification is one aspect of capitalism, and alienates and estranges the bourgeoisie. We aren't some Leninoid sect that uses a buncha jargon off of some science fiction concept of radical politics... Yuppie is good shorthand for predatory, exploitative, rapacious, vulgar person, who does well in a society like this."

So far the greatest polarization has been between Makhno and those alarmed at the potential for human on human violence when somebody catches an aspiring revolutionary going at the family wheels with a baseball bat. Makhno is unconcerned, "Maybe they should just develop a more Buddhist attitude towards their possessions."

The concept of a peaceful resolution of differences is not very important in an outlook fueled by rage. Makhno says that "It's not a matter of me wanting to find peaceful solutions. I hate capitalism. I hate capitalists and what they are doing to the world and I don't have any problems with bad things being done to them." Makhno brought up a notorious local eviction case to justify his methods: "Gentrification is infinitely more violent than anything my friends and I would ever be able to marshal... Violence to me is somebody like Robert Cort, Jr. kicking elderly working class people out of their home where they lived for 33 years. Is anybody going to tell the Ghandi or Cesar Chavez or Martin Luther King schtick to him?"

But where does this line of thinking end? Makhno admits to placing more importance on what is effective than to what is ethical: "I'm not into ethics or morality. The ruling class considers morality to be for export consumption only."

So, if the YEP posters don't have any effect, what's the next step? Makhno proposed a "just joking", "hypothetical" but nonetheless chilling scenario: "It's not like I have any plans to this myself, but sometimes I've wondered, if in the absence of mass collective action against gentrification, the best thing to do might be to assassinate one landlord or real estate speculator a month until the bottom falls out of the housing market in San Francisco." It seems there are few intermediary steps between trashing cars and the all too familiar tactics of terrorism.

Makhno believes that those concerned about gentrification, but critical of his methods, are obligated to come up with solutions of their own. Perhaps, our readers have some thoughts on this.



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Maria Del Carmen Ramirez has waged a year-long fight with city bureaucrats..

Photo by Bea Ahbeck

Flower power at the 11th hour

Neighborhood woman fights City Hall and wins (so far)

By vmiller

The City can't seem to fix Muni, keep the streets clean or house the homeless but when it comes to wanton flower vending are local bureaucrats are zealous in the extreme. Case in point: Maria del Carmen Ramirez. In July of 1997, after obtaining a city business license for a flower stall at 23rd and Shotwell, she and her family spent three weeks cleaning up the vacant lot, a local eyesore, at that location. Soon after she opened for business, a neighbor complained to the Department of City Planning that Mrs. Ramirez was operating a business in a residentially zoned location.

Three months later Robert Passmore, the Planning Department's zoning administrator, informed Mrs. Ramirez that she would have to cease operations by November 21, 1997. Since then Mrs. Ramirez has fought a feisty battle against the city's attempts to drive her out of business. She is especially irked by the fact that while one branch of the city (Planning) declares her operation to be illegal, another branch of the city (the Tax Collector) is perfectly happy to take her tax money, almost \$3500 to date. That's a considerable amount of money for someone who since fleeing the civil war in El Salvador in 1984, has struggled for every penny as a babysitter, house keeper and now as a businesswoman.

Seeing all of Mrs. Ramirez' hard work go down the drain on a technicality was disheartening for the many friends she has made in the 11 years she has lived in the Mission. Then Romy Ibarra-Klein, a paralegal who was helping Mrs. Ramirez with

her case, did some detailed reading of the Planning Code and discovered Section 209.5 c which permits in a residential zone a "greenhouse, plant, nursery, truck garden or other land structure devoted to the cultivation of plants of any kind with or without retail or wholesale sales on the premises."

Last month, armed with this information Mrs. Ramirez and about fifty supporters convinced the Board of Permit Appeals to give her time to acquire the additional permits she needs. It turns out that the City made this woman's miserable for a year, simply because no one in the bureaucracy bothered to tell her what her options were.

She remains philosophical about the situation and hopeful for the future, "This has been a terrible experience and very difficult time for me, but when I see people coming by to support the shop, it is like food for me. My dream is that the business will allow my three sons to have a good education, so they can have professional careers."

Some of her supporters saw this as more than an isolated case of civic idiocy, "I think it goes to a broader issue of what's going on in the Mission; that she can be threatened with having her small business closed down on zoning issues while loopholes in zoning issues are used by big developers to create huge live/work developments... It's a broader issue in terms of what's happening with gentrification and both businesses and people being displaced," said Eric Quezada.

Mrs. Ramirez is not home free yet. She faces another Permit Appeals hearing on December 2.

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1 SUNDAY



Poetry for the Dead - An open mike reading in honor of Day of the Dead. Two minute limit, any language you please. Extra applause for poets in Halloween clothes. Be there earlier than usual, at 8pm, 1109 Valencia near 22nd, Cafe Cultural Valencia, 824-7659

The Sound of Improvised Music — Julie Andrews has got nothing on a .shall we say .courageous group of people performing improvised musicals at Espresso Bravo on Monday nights. Check out The Dips, and their peculiar sense of how to enjoy a weeknight. Also Nov 8, 15, and 22d. \$5 donation 663 Valencia, 8 pm.

Serious Art — Rik Verlin Livingston reportedly subverts the traditional tragic artist pose with his new show at Goat Hill Pizza, "Serious Art! Humor in Paint." Better hit the pizza place to find out how he manages to make us cackle. Show runs through November. 300 Connecticut at 18th St.

Llamando a Los Queridos: Dia de Los Muertos — Gallery Luscombe features altar installations and artworks by eight women, through Nov 14 Reception today at 3 pm. 3040 24th St 285-8545

CELL - Beginning at 10pm, there will be a "Processional High Ritual"(??) It's an all night vigil and everyone is invited, 2050 Bryant Street.

2 MONDAY



Anniversary, Trophy & Sugar Skulls — At 4pm today, friends of Encantada Gallery will celebrate their first year on Valencia St., an award winning struggle as '98s "Best New Hispanic Business". Amid the mayhem, master artisan Emilio Quintana from Puebla Mexico will demonstrate the traditional craft of sugar skull making. Visit Encantada for all your altar needs: sugar skulls, paper mache skeletons, velas and calacas 904 Valencia. 642-3939

Neighborhood Procession - ArtBeat Gallery has an exhibition of works by visiting Venezuelan artist, Carlos Madriz and an altar installation the public is invited to contribute to by bringing a tribute (ofrenda) for a deceased loved one, and by joining the neighborhood procession with the Lexington Street Lookouts. Reception for the artists from 6 to 8pm, 3266 -21st Street, 643-8721.

Dia de Los Muertos Procession — Opening night reception for Dia de los Muertos at Mission Cultural Center. Join with the community to honor our ancestors. 7:30 pm. 2868 Mission.

Dia de Los Muertos Procession 2 — New College of California leads a Day of the Dead Procession from New College to Yerba Buena Gardens via BART. Perhaps the coolest part of this is their idea to incorporate BART as a daily descent that many of us make, and the re-emergence from BART as a sort of rebirth. Neat urban metaphors, and you get to remember your ancestors. Meet at 6 pm at 766 Valencia, proceed to 16th Street BART. Rituals and ceremonies begin at 7 pm at Yerba Buena Gardens.

Vote!3 TUESDAY



Writers Read Things — Judy Juanita reads from her novel-in-progress *virgin soul*, a fictive story about a black student who gets involved with the Black Panthers, and Peter Plate will read from his up-coming novel *Police and Thieves*, an existential action novel that takes place in the Mission. Existential action? For the confused, a discussion follows. \$5. 8 pm at Intersection for the Arts. 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Take a Break With Brecht — Theater Artaud high-camps it to celebrate Bertold Brecht's life and work. "Happy Birthday Brecht" consists of excerpts from the famed artist's writings; his plays, letters, diaries, songs and his testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Woven in roughly chronological order, the performance gives a general picture of his life. In Kurt Weill style, the night benefits a project to send pianos to Cuba. Thank god such philanthropists exist. Tonight is the preview show, \$8 at 7:30 pm. Nov. 5-7 at 8 pm, Nov. 8 at 5 pm. \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. At the Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

4 WEDNESDAY



A Radical! Latina Perspective — Modern Times is entering its 28th year of literary rabble-raising (and book selling) and to celebrate they've invited an array of authors to grace their hallowed store. Tonight Elizabeth Martinez, author of *De Colores Means All of Us*, describes the provocative ideas and movements created by the rapidly expanding U.S. Latina/o community. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Whipper Snapper Nerd — Get out there and bid! What are you waiting for? Creativity Explored holds a silent art auction to benefit its work with developmentally disabled adults. Minimum bid is \$100. Admission is free, but bring cash for the no-host bar, and for this awesome art 7 pm. 401 Alabama at 17th St. 863-2108.

Mayan Activism — Tomas Sen Tecun, an indigenous organizer from Guatemala, will speak on the Mayan struggle for democratic participation in post-war Guatemala. Presented by the Guatemala News and Information Bureau. 7 pm at the New College, 777 Valencia. 826-3593.

5 THURSDAY



"Hypnotic, Exotic, Healthily Erotic" — All that alliteration and rhyme can mean only one thing: that's right, kids, a POET is coming to town. Wading through forty years of ryhmin' and writin'—and being a leader of experimental American fiction—Clarence Major will certainly drop a few of his masterly poeticisms at tonight's reading at Modern Times. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

The Lower Depths — Despite concerted efforts by San Francisco 20-somethings, no one can beat Russians of any age for premillennial depressive discontent. Nobody proves this better than Maxim Gorky, particularly in his gut-wrenching classic play "The Lower Depths"—a story about unbearable poverty, unbeatable social adversity, and occasional good times with vodka. \$10 for previews, \$15. 3316 24th St. 8 pm. 392-4400.

Death and the Artist — Days are getting shorter and everyone's getting morbid as a result. Thank heavens for "Death and the Artist", a comic fable celebrating the Day of the Dead. With music and dance. 9:30 pm, Nov 5-7 at 8 pm. \$10. 2868 Mission 821-1155.

6 FRIDAY



Penguin Soup for the Soul — Has your soul (and your intellect) had enough of spiritual schlock and perverse politics? Time to throw out the chicken soup and serve up some penguin. Tom Tomorrow, a.k.a. Dan Perkins, holds forth on sacred hypocrisies with a talk and slideshow at Modern Times. Not to be missed. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Hear Herstory — Joan Nestle was out as a lesbian in the McCarthy Era, marching for civil rights in Selma in the sixties, and in 1973 co-founded the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Now she's published a book of essays on the "fragile unions" of contemporary lesbian life, both personal and historical. Dorothy Allison MCs the evening, and a stellar array of authors read from Nestle's work. Victoria Theater, 16th and Mission. 8 pm. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Tickets available at Modern Times, A Different Light, and more. 575-4700.

New Opera — The Valkyries will not ride tonight. Wondering what opera writers have been up to since Wagner limply set the image of big women in horned helmets dancing (and singing lustily) in our heads? Manifold American Symphony, described as a post-modern chamber orchestra, performs *Continuum*, an original opera by Sebastian Craig. Perfect for disaffected aesthetes. \$15, \$12 in advance. 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Wilds for the Childs — Bay Area Wilderness Training Program is hosting a fundraising event to support their efforts as a new organization that trains youth workers in outdoor skills. Come learn about the organization, meet staff, have some food and support kids in the wild. Crucible Steel Gallery, 2050 Bryant St. \$10, 7 pm. 643-7432.

In the Same Breath — Winter brings out all the performers and storytellers no one has patience for during the sun-drenched (or is that fog-drenched) summer. New Langton Arts features performance artists Miriam Kronberg and Gloria Yamato, two artists challenging comfort levels of artists and audiences with their new work about storytelling. Using the power of the postmodern play format (is there a format?) coupled with the age-old allure of story-telling, they plumb their disparate legacies of mixed German/Jew and African American for ways to survive. No word as to whether Gloria Gaynor features prominently or not. Nov. 6, 7, 13 and 14. 8 pm, 1246 Folsom. \$8. 626-5416.

7 SATURDAY



A New Breed of Ragtime — Bo Grumpus, ragtime trio extraordinary, plays the Atlas Café for ragtime lools. 4-7 pm. No cover. 3049 25th St. at Alabama.

Santa Paws Is Coming to Town — They got the month wrong, but who cares? Is your pooch batting at sugar plum fairies in his sleep? Crooning Christmas carols at the moon? Let him sit in Santa's lap for a couple minutes at the SPCA's Christmas fair. Photos with Santa are ten dollars per pose. Remember, however, all pets must be people-friendly, animal-tolerant and ready to bark or purr their requests to Santa. 10 am to 3 pm, today and tomorrow. 243 Alabama St. 554-3000.

Oh Listen, Dieter, Its Sprockets! — Put your tight black pants and little glasses away. This is actually the Sprocket Ensemble, a local wacked-out jazz outfit fronted by Nik Phelps, who writes scores of scores for animation by local artists. If you haven't yet checked out their lurid, swooping, disjointed musical stylings, now's the time. There's an all-day music marathon at Yerba Buena Center and Sprocket Ensemble plays there at 6 pm. 701 Mission St. 681-3189.

Dead Media — Perhaps inspired by the macabre bent of the month, ATA's hosting a month-long Saturday night film series on dead technology. Early cinema novelties, kinaesthetic research, zoetropes and all kinds of arcana will haunt 992 Valencia tonight. 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890.

9 MONDAY



Dance Against Dogma — Lindy for Latin, or Swing for Schools. Local hipsters, don your zoot suits and strapped high heels and head out to Café du Nord to relive a bygone era when schools were schools and media was media and never the twain did meet. The non-profit organi-

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zation Our Schools, Our Media is holding a benefit dance. All net proceeds go to mobilizing community action on behalf of public schools. 7:30 pm. 2170 Market St. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 831-6141

Gutsy Guitar — Classical guitarist Manuel Barrueco performs for free at the Community Music Center, and answers any questions—well, almost any—during and after the performance. 5:30 to 6:30 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

12

THURSDAY



Poetry for the People — Mission Cultural Center hosts a FREE five week bilingual poetry writing workshop with June Jordan, one of the most powerful and politically astute poets of our time. This is an incredible opportunity. In English and Spanish, sponsored by UC Berkeley. 7-9:30 pm starting today. Call to register. 2868 Mission St. 821-1155

Poetry for the Little People — There seems to be no end to the legions of youth finding their voice and honoring their ancestors via performance. The latest in the series, "Speak Their Names", promises to "talk the language of drums" and "sing and dance honoring spirits." That said, it may be a pretty good time. Today through Saturday. \$7 adults, \$3 youth 11-18. At Brava Theater, 2789 24th St, 8 pm. 522-7881.

Hey Chick Jocks — How far have we come? Bay Area Radical Women queries whether a socialist feminist society would increase sporting opportunities for women and girls. Any socialist's first concern, clearly. Dinner and discussion at 6:30 pm, \$6.50 donation. 1908 Mission St. Lecture 7:30 pm. 864-1278.

13

FRIDAY



Low Budget Flicks — Low budget doesn't necessarily mean low-brow or low quality, so check out the 2d annual hi/LO Film Festival, featuring low budget films for the "adventurous and the disenchanted." Then you can re-enchant yourself, or enchant someone else, at the afterparty at Liquid, next door to the Victoria Theater where the Festival is. 7:30 pm tonight, 8 pm Sat. and Sun. \$6. 2961 16th St. 267-0642.

Reading En Español — John Ross reads from *Tonatiuh's People* en español at La Casa del Libro, 973 Valencia St. 7 pm. 285-1399

14

SATURDAY



Paint Me Musical — Turpentine plays the Atlas Café, dissolving our urban identities with working class country and folk music. 3049 25th St. at Alabama. 4-7 pm.

Tea and Mangos, Anyone? — El Rio presents Mango, an outdoor tea dance for women. Come and shake your crumpets, strumpets! A good afternoon fiesta for the fillies. 3 pm. 3158 Mission St. 282-3325.

World's Best Climbers — And that is not social but otherwise. Come watch some of the best interior rock climbers belay their stuff at Mission Cliffs Indoor Climbing Gym. Lots of fancy footwork on faux rock outcroppings; a strapping good time for all. 9 am.-8 pm. Open qualifier Wed. Nov. 11 at 9 am. 2295 Harrison St. 550-0515.

Schlock-o-Rama — The intriguing je-ne-sais-quoi of the name aside, Yerba Buena is seriously outdoing itself with this month's tribute to filmmaker Al Adamson and his actress wife Regina Carrol. To quote: "Against all odds, including lack of money, lack of talent and lack of intelligence, he kept churning out pictures..." Tonight's offerings include *The Female Bunch*, about an all-woman heroin-dealing commune filmed on location at Spahn Ranch, home of the Manson family. Also, *Girls for Rent*. I can't plug this one enough. 8 pm. 701 Mission St. 978-2700.

15

SUNDAY



More Reading — John Ross reads from *Tonatiuh's People* at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7 pm. 282-9246.

Blueprint for Memory Poetry Workshop — Getting nostalgic for the landscape of home? The empty bottles, the broken dishes, the screaming matches? Dredge up all that old stuff at this poetry writing workshop with Lynn Emanuel, writer in residence at Intersection for the Arts. Freewrite about home, then create a draft of a poem from the freewrite. 2-4:30 pm. \$20, advanced registration necessary. 626-3311.

Singing Little People — The San Francisco Children's Chorus performs for free at the Community Music Center. They'll salute kids and critters with such songs as "Bless the Beasts and Children" and a preview of a children's operetta. Ah, yes, bless the little beasts. JonBenet Ramsey will not be in attendance. 3 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

17

TUESDAY



Then Suddenly I Like Poetry — Intersection for the Arts Writer-In-Residence Lynn Emanuel gives a reading from her new book of poems, *Then Suddenly*. She will intersperse the reading with discussion of how and why the book was written, for all those curious about how and why someone becomes a poet in this profoundly unpoetic age. 8 pm, \$7.446 Valencia. 626-3311.

19

THURSDAY



Mission Kids Art Opening at Yerba Buena Center — The Urban Institute Art Workshop in collaboration YEA is having an art show in the community Gallery of the new Zeum Children's Museum. We encourage you to stop by and see the great art work created by this afterschool program consisting of local 8th graders and high school students and other local youth entrepreneurial groups. Ceramic works, mosaic pieces and more will be sold just in time for the holidays. Call for information. 221 4th St. 864-5205.

20

FRIDAY



Foro Informe Zapatista — Informe y video de la situación actual en Chiapas, reunión para organizar y programar la demostración en el primer aniversario de la masacre de Acteal y la Fiesta de Año Nuevo, Traiga ideas y animo de trabajo. Entrada gratis. 8 pm, 2870 A 22d St. 550-1101.

21

SATURDAY



Bike Mural Opening — Rev your engine-less racer and head over to Duboce Bikeway, San Francisco's first car-free bicycling street at Church/Market behind Safeway. The SF Bike Coalition will unveil its block-long mural at 2 pm, followed by a gallery show at 69 Belcher St. from 4-8 pm. The mural follows the progress of an intrepid bicyclist through the city and to the beach, through several perspectives, and we gotta say, it's a hell a cool paen to the pedal revolution. 431-BIKE.

Love Technology, Live Technology — ATA takes a filmic look at early audio and electronic media, including a millennial meditation on phone-sex, antique videogame artifacts, the phenomenon of fax attacks and more. \$5 at 8:30 pm. 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

More Crappy Film — More Al Adamson movies at Yerba Buena. Tonight: *Dracula vs. Frankenstein* and *Horror of the Blood Monsters*. Perhaps one of his most fondly remembered films, *Dracula* features LSD, bikers, Vegas showgirls and hippies. *Dracula* and friends are in there somewhere too. 8 pm, 701 Mission. 978-2787.

Native American Singing Trio — Ulali has gained a national reputation and following singing a range of different native styles. Pay to hear them sing. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. 8 pm at Everett Theater, 450 Church. 522-8793.

22

SUNDAY



Bump, Grind and Bomba — Dos Alas/Los Hermanos Cepeda present a Puerto Rican Folkloric Percussion and Dance Workshop at the Mission Cultural Center. Beat back those winter doldrums at the 1 pm percussion session, or the 3:30 pm Bomba Dance Class. \$10. 2868 Mission St. 821-1155.

24

TUESDAY



Lyric Intensity — Tillie Olsen, highly praised for her brilliant revolutionary literature, reads from her fiction and then discusses her life and work. The word is she also intends to disrupt passive reading with lyric intensity. Better see for yourself. 446 Valencia, 8 pm. \$7. 626-2787.

28

SATURDAY



Have a Psychic Horizon — For once in your life. Line up your chakras, adjust your aura and head over to the FREE Healing Fair put on by Psychic Horizons, the Church of Natural Grace. Established as a school for meditation and healing in 1971, Psychic Horizons will take you to new psychic territory. 2-4 pm. 972 Valencia. 643-8800.

"Tabby Tell All" — Learn how to read your cat's behavior at the SPCA's cat behavior class. It's better than a deck of tarot cards. For feline psychic healing, see above listing. 250 Florida St. 1-2 pm. \$10 donation. 522-3525.

Electronic Animation — Australian auteur and unashamed computer advocate David Cox crosses the ocean to unspool an hour of his homeland's hottest electronic animation, as well as his cyperpunk fantasy *Otherzone*. Also, a cyberdelic ensemble of digital wizards including avant-ravers Troy Innocent and the Psy Vision squad. Too technical for us to decipher, but you might like it. \$5 at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 pm. 824-3890.

on...

ONGOING



Mondays

Women, Step Forward Night at Café Cultural, 1109 Valencia. All Socially Evolved and/or Good-Lookin' Men are welcome. The purpose of this ritual? To foster enlightened conversation between each other and the sexes, no doubt. Wear nice underwear. 7 pm to round Midnight.

Tuesdays

The Marsh will be offering art classes for children of all ages. Kids will make puppets, masks, toys, pinatas and more, using recycled materials. Beginning Tuesday Nov. 10, through Dec. 15. Ages 7-12 meet at 4 pm, Ages 2-6 at 5 pm. \$40-60 for all six weeks, or \$10 per person, per class. 1062 Valencia. 826-5750 x2.

Thursdays

Are you having problems with your landlord? **The Housing Rights Committee and Comité Pro-Derechos de Vivienda San Pedro** bring you tenant counseling every Thursday evening 6-8 pm. Café la Bohème at the corner of 24th and Mission. 643-5368.

Belly dancing class— Everyone knows about Friday's free oysters at El Rio, but for the vegetarians Thursday offers a free belly dancing class at 8:30 pm and free pool all night! Forget Thursday night TV, this is the place to be! Performances 10:30, \$3. 3158 Mission St. 282-3325.

Fridays

Friday Night Reading Series, distinguished poets hosted by Jorge Argueta at Café Cultural Valencia. Starts around 9pm and there's no dress code! 1109 Valencia, nr 22nd, 824-7659.

SF Games — What would Friday be without our trusty SF Games. And yes, they will meet even after Thanksgiving, saying "SF Games is a great way to chase away the holiday blues." SF games is free and open to all. If you don't know any games, they'll teach you! At Café Commons, 3161 Mission St. 7 pm sharp. 679-3678.

Saturdays

Women's Self Defense class in the Tenderloin. 861-2024 x304 to register.

Sundays

Salsa Dance Lessons — There's no better way to warm up on a cold SF afternoon than at El Rio's salsa dance class by Coco. 3:15 pm-4:15 pm. Live Salsa on Patio follows at 4 pm. \$5.

VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

Volunteer for Shanti — Volunteers are needed at Shanti to help run errands, shop, clean, cook, laugh, cry, talk, go for walks, and provide emotional and practical support to people with AIDS/HIV in San Francisco. Next training begins Nov. 6. 487-4722.

Volunteer for SF WAR — San Francisco Women Against Rape is training rape crisis counselors. The next volunteer training begins Nov. 5. Call 861-2024 to apply.

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Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts programs are funded in part by
the SF Art Commission and the SF Hotel Tax Fund.



Poems of the Month

edited by **Barbara Bennett**

"In the time of revolution kill the poet
first." anonymous

A B C D EGO

I'm sitting in my underwear
Without any shoes
Thinking of a poem
For New Mission News

Should it be about pollution
And all that nasty stuff
Or Clinton and whatsher name
That Taco Bell little doggie
Or the latest McDonald game

No nothing very exciting
Nothing shocking to read or see
Getting my name in print
Is good enough for me.

Chuck Kennedy

GRAFFITI

I remember the graffiti
splashed on the police station
cement wall in San Francisco
shouting: DOWN WITH THE PIGS

I remember graffiti I thought
I'd forgotten, splashed across
the steel-and -glass wall of
Banco Popular del Peru in
Miraflores crying:
DOWN WITH THE MILITARY

I remember the graffiti on the
brick wall near the Quadrangle at
Stanford University for an entire
Spring quarter declaring:
SO WE CHOOSE BETWEEN REALITY
AND MADNESS.
IT'S EITHER SADNESS
OR EUPHORIA. ECSTASY
OR DESPAIR.

Graffiti, I remember, during a semester,
scandalizing all from the partition of the
3rd floor bathroom
stall, Humanities building,
San Francisco State:
TO HAVE A DAUGHTER
WHO GROWS UP
TO BE A POLITICIAN
IS ENOUGH REASON
TO HAVE AN ABORTION.

And I remember on the freshly white
wall of downtown Yakety Yak café,
angry graffiti:
THIS SURE AIN'T NEW YORK!
Underneath someone answered,
I think, smiling:
THANK GOD!
SAN FRANCISCO REIGNS,

Camincha



Send sub-missions to Poetry Editor, New
Mission News, 777 Valencia, S. F., CA
94110



Mission District Home Owners Need Rehab, or an emergency repair, can't pick up the tab?

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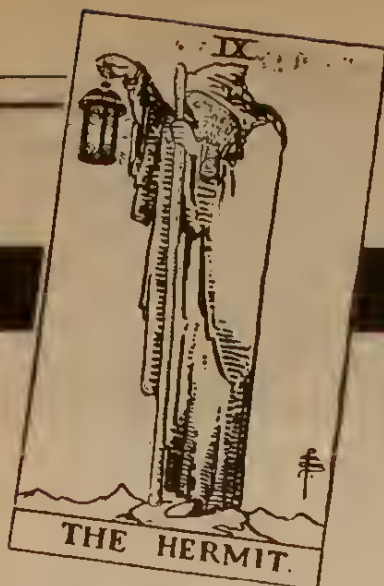
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Bi-Cycle Messenger from Deep Space Nine is Clocking You

This witch's mix:

1. Strange times = strange dreams:

2. HERMIT, CARD NINE: STEALTH AVATAR of AQUARIAN AGE

3. MERC RETRO ALERT

We're going anecdotal —by way of Pi and what felt like a prophetic dream. With help, of course, from HERMIT, Aquari Avatar and Bi-Cycle Messenger from Deep Space Card Nine.

But first: MERC RETRO ALERT: Planet Mercury's the highspeed trickster, ruling gambling, contracts, communications, electronics, virtual money, travel. When Merc retrogrades, plans go astray every which way, misunderstandings multiply. Solution: MERC RETRO's key is 're' — the 're' being taking time out to re-think, re-design, re-schedule. Avoid launching ventures, opening or closing negotiations. And back up that hard drive!

This anecdote won't help much with the Y2K thing, but I thought some of us might need reassuring... especially if you — like me — saw that intriguing prophecy-n'-migraines-by-the-numbers movie, 'Pi'. To those of you who lost sleep over this subject matter, or who may've been subjected to its real-world analog via the Bible Belt savagery of evangelical millennialism [I was]: now we can exhale! Astronomers and historians have announced the actual BC/AD timeline's 3 or 4 years late. So to all those Red Cow-Partisans and fire-breathing fundamentalists, I gotta say SORRY, YOU MISSED IT! Seems the Jesus-Yeshua-type millenium already happened, back in 1996 or '97.

There are other strange measures of times before and to come...and here we launch a three-part browse of high weirdness and helpful hints associated with them: Age of Aquari-Us, The Stealth Version. [Parts 2 and 3 coming in December and January FLASHcards.]

So I dreamed I was in New Yawk City, Times Square. You know that big electronic billboard everybody looks at to get the correct time? It didn't display the time. All it said was: THE TIME IS NOW. Biggest digital billboard in the world, no digits. No numbers. Everybody in Times Square asking me what time it is. Nobody had a watch but me.

Just another nutty dream? Maybe, since everybody knows you certainly do not answer people in NYC who come up and ask you the time. But since I dreamt it two nights running, seemed like the way to go was de-code mode. And so what came to mind was a time-honored skirmish in the Great TAROT Sequence Wars: HERMIT. One school says this card's Father Time/ Chronos/ Fate; the other says CARD NINE represents Sagittarius' Fire Within, The Light of the Seeker Who Becomes the Avatar.

Segue to...Morning after The Dream, Day 1: I tune in to a pre-recorded BBC radio interview with fascinatin' e-avatar, John Postel, co-inventor of the Internet.

FLASHcards

Jakwitch

Morning after The Dream, Day 2: I note that the dream has repeated itself. While munching puffed cereal units, I find today, I'm reading Postel's obituary, since he's apparently dropped dead overnight. Then I pick up a two-month old astrology zine, which falls open to the footnotes of an article by celebrated Brit astrologer and chip engineer, Robin Heath. The footnotes tell how Robin's dad, inventor of microcircuitry Fred Heath, worked with Vannevar Bush (father of ex-president and ex-CIA director, George Bush). Vannevar Bush was a strange genii. Devilishly ahead of his time, he invented the CIA out of the O.S.S., is reported to have created the Dept. of Defense "Black Budget", and its infamous UFO cover-up ops, Majestic12. He somehow also found the time to design Memex, the precursor of both the Internet and search engines, and which is still in military use today!

You can sort of see why Mr. Heath had to grow up and become a hippie astrologer. Anyway, Heath's article was about the current Neptune-Aquarian transit [and associated predictions]. The transit, some say, invokes the Age of Aquarius; but all astrologers agree it will be a critical influence until 2012.

Seeing '2012' made me drop my spoon. That's when I realized what was not in Robin's footnote about this Time Cycle and related predictions, was how IT AGREES WITH THE MAYAN CALENDAR'S END DATE, as translated by Mayan priests, Hunbatz Men, and Harmonic Convergencer Jose Arguelles. [More on this next time.]

Now look at the Card

An elder clad in gray hooded robes stands atop a snow-capped summit. In his left hand, a golden staff; in his right, a lantern held aloft. HERMIT's looking down for those on the path below...and the light in the lantern is not a candle, but a six-pointed star. HERMIT's one of only two cards in which the staff [wand = fire; will, sexuality] is gold instead of wood. The other card is #1: MAGICIAN. HERMIT has elevated all the tools on MAGICIAN's altar to the highest octave, thus becoming a guide to seekers.

Where HERMIT's coming from, the summit of experience, or Timelessness, the point of view is omniscient.

Got Hermit?

Thinking about parenting, or committing? HERMIT says think again; it's your turn for a big time out, as in KNOW THYSELF, first.

In a business quandary? When HERMIT shows up it's critical to consider your relationship to integrity. Only unflinching appraisal reveals the correct strategic response to all-bets-are-off HERMIT. Is your business clean? If so, HERMIT indicates a once-remote resource is coming over to your side or triggering innovation. For those more devoted to profit than integrity, beware, as in: TIME'S UP! YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE. Consequences are beating a path to your door, via media, legal action, 'Acts of God'.

Committed to the arts, political service, or a spiritual path? This card signals sweetness, which you'll soon sense. A mentor not necessarily in this Time Cycle is emailing you a concentrated burst of inspiration —or a roadmap— via The OtherNet.

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Photo by Gary Stenger

Guys (and gals) in black are back

And they've got a message for the guys (and gals) in blue. On October 22nd, as part of the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, about 200 people gathered at the 24th Street BART Plaza, many wearing black in memory of

the victims of police violence. The group marched down Mission Street to City Hall in solidarity with marches, rallies, cultural events, teach-ins and other forms of protest in cities across the U.S. and beyond to speak out against the excessive use of force by police. For more information contact the Stolen Lives Project at 212-822-8596.



Media Bomb shakes things up. Photo by Arthur Hudson

Teens want the airwaves

A group of students from the School of the Arts had what they thought were some great ideas, and they wanted to broadcast them to the world. So, it made perfect sense to ask KALW-radio for a little airtime. The radio station is operated by the San Francisco Unified School District

(SFUSD) and is a conduit for NPR - National Public Radio.

The students crewed up as MediaBomb (translating into formed a collective' for us old folks) and asked KALW management for an hour long, monthly program to showcase their talents and passions. Negotiations ensued between MediaBomb and SFUSD to determine the nature of their access to KALW. For now MediaBomb is welcome to work with a KALW producer to create a series of eight-minute long pilot programs, which would allow SFUSD to test the waters. Sandina Robbins, SFUSD Director of Communications, encourages the students to make a case for themselves. "Show us what you can do, and what you want to do with the airtime. We would be happy to entertain your ideas, but we need something concrete," Robbins told the group.

As a preview of things to come, MediaBomb exploded with energy, October 9, at Centro del Pueblo with three hours of break dancing, rap, the SOTA Funk Band, and performance poetry. The group hopes to gain support for new talks with KALW that may lead to something a little closer to what they initially had in mind. For more information contact MediaBomb at 415/821-7369.

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Youth have a vision for 23rd and Treat.

These kids have done their math

In September, a group of Mission area students presented a plan and model for a neighborhood park to residents, representatives from CALLE 22 and PODER, the Mayor's Office, and the Recreation and Park Department at the Mission Recreation Center.

While attending Mr. Alvite's ESL Math class at Potrero Hill Middle School in 1997, the students were influenced by a newspaper article he read to them one day. The article was about an empty lot in the Mission, at the corner of Treat and 23rd Streets. The pie-slice shaped lot has been empty for years, except a jungle of weeds, an assortment of refuse and rubble, and a whole lot of toxic waste.

Mr. Alvite's class was impressed with the actions of students from Horace Mann Middle School, and Cesar Chavez School, who had organized an on-site protest with PODER (a community based environmental group). The Mission students also posted "DANGER - TOXIC WASTE" signs, and others with skull and crossbones images to inform the neighborhood about the dangers the lot posed to residents.

During a visit to Mr. Alvite's classroom, Marvin Yee of the San Francisco Park and Recreation Department, told the class about the City's plans to buy the lot and develop it into community space. Then the Potrero Hill students looked at some video of the lot, and saw that it might have some potential, for an otherwise

trashed and toxic slice of land. They had liked the way their flatland student-peers had gotten together to protest the state of the site, and they decided that they also wanted to do something about the problem. After a class vote, they decided it would make a great neighborhood park.

Working in teams, they developed ideas for a Homeless Shelter, a Community Center, a Children's Center and Playground, a Sports' Field, and landscape and gardening. The class also collaborated with LEAP Project Architects Patricia Alarcón and Jill Horton, who taught them how math can be used in architecture, and helped them design a plan and model for the park. They had presented their plan and model to adult experts, student colleagues at Horace Mann, and a Linking San Francisco Conference in March of '97, gaining feedback and input which they used to refine the project. They wrote letters to Mayor Willie Brown, Supervisor Jose Medina, and Neighborhood Groups supporting the proposed purchase of the lot by the City and the creation of community space there. Having done their math and passed with honors, Mr. Alvite's class of '97 has moved on. But the students believe that the project is not over, and they hope that their model will become a real park at Treat and 23rd Streets; a community place that everyone can use and enjoy.

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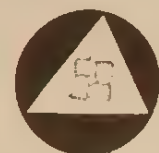
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Find your favorite planet at 21st and Bryant. Photo by Bea Ahbeck

The Mission's newest nightspot generates lots of Cosmic Energy

by vmiller

On your typical weekend night it seems like Valencia Street has become an adult theme park (theme unclear) for the disposable income set from Orinda and Walnut Creek. Not that these folks aren't nice, in a Starbucks kind of way but how about all us homies who just want to grab a drink, some conversation and perhaps a deeply committed 72-hour relationship? Is there nothing in this boom and bustle of ultra-hip that serves our simple needs for an alcohol enriched good time within in walking distance? A few blocks east of the Valencia crawl, at 21st and Bryant Streets, Cosmos Bar is taking its place as the club of choice for locals.

Just last year, Cosmos was Vigil's Club; a punch-and-stab establishment dreaded by neighbors, and loathed by the cops. It was a place for serious liver hardening with few redeeming social values. Gus Murad, who operates a corner market across the street and has been a positive force for community improvement, bought out Vigil's owners in June. Murad's idea wasn't to ride the Mission Club-Trendiness wave. His concept was based on his four years of interacting with the community. "I saw the people from the neighborhood going to work in the morning and coming home in the evening without any place where they could get together and say 'hi,' talk, and be more neighborly neighbors. That's what we've done and I'm very proud of that accomplishment," Murad said.

Getting to this point required the usual back breaking remodeling job you inherit when you acquire a business that has been run into the ground, but there was an astonishing aspect to this part of it. People, on their way home from work, began to pitch in and help. One night when a water main broke, and Murad was busy ditch digging, a crowd gathered and started appropriating his picks and shovels. Everybody put in a sweaty 5 or 10 minutes before wandering off home. This is folk song material.

Inside, Cosmos has a sort of space age look with fancy metal work, high ceilings, atmospheric lighting, astronomical objects

embedded in the floor and a barrage of television sets that compete with the free BBQ offered every Sunday during broadcasts of 49er games. On the down to earth level, there's a pool table and a dynamite jukebox. Cosmos has yet to be discovered by the Valencianos, so it's never crowded on weeknights and that's the best time to take advantage of the extended (sometimes all night) happy hours when micro brews and mixed drinks are available for \$2 or less.

There don't seem to be many from the old crowd hanging out at Cosmos. "The nice ones still come around and that's fine. We want to be a place for everybody," said Murad. "The ones that aren't nice don't, and that's fine too," he added.

Cosmos' mural is its most distinctive feature. Covering two sides of the corner building it's swirling galaxies make it look like how Van Gogh would have painted "Starry Night" if Carl Sagan had been whispering instructions into his good ear. This is primarily the work of artists Alex Van Praagh and Witney Combs, but about fifteen to twenty local residents also contributed by painting in their own personalized planets. See if you can find the "Planet of Bats," the "Clothes Washer Planet," or the "Georgia O'Keefe Planet." One seven year old girl from up the street put in several afternoons of swirl painting, while her seventy year old grandmother sat in a lawn chair offering encouragement. More stuff for the folk song.

Unlike most of the Mission's outdoor art, this mural has no underlying message, but the pervasive color purple is a subtle statement of universality, since the 21st Street location is the border between Red and Blue Mission District youth gangs. Purple is neither red nor blue, but contains both colors.

Cosmic developments in the near future include a full service restaurant with Caribbean food, and live music. For now, it's simply a great stylish, but laid back, nightspot for all us deserving locals—which is plenty.

Cosmos is located at 2730 21st Street @ Bryant. Hours are from 2pm to 2am every day. Tel. 415/282-9926

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The Mission's favorite fishing spot. Photo by Arthur Hudson.

Where to find the best fish and fowl plus some genuine family values

by vmiller

Rapid change seems to be the order of the day in this neighborhood with new businesses springing up almost every week. But amid the constant battle to be hip, trendy and more cutting edge, there are some establishments whose success is based on the old fashioned principles of quality and service. Sure, you might go to a bar or club for style reasons but when your objective is fish or poultry, there's something to be said for the traditional butcher shop and culminate wisdom of a long established operation.

For those who have lived most of their lives, or all of their lives in the Mission, or who are second or third generation homies, the official and authentic place for consumables once seafaring or feathered has, since 1977, been Mission Fish and Poultry. Founder Tino Scialanga, who began his career as a boy of 11 in the fish markets of his native Rome, still stops by the shop once or twice a week. But nowadays his son Bob runs the five-person union shop in the personal, knows-your-name, hands-on manner, that has all but been wiped out by corporate food empires.

While other places boast 'fresh fish,' no big deal this being a seaport, most of them put in phone orders to Fisherman Wharf and buy sight unseen. Results are not always optimal. Bob Scialanga goes over there himself, making 20 years of experience and business relationships pay off in terms of the real deal.

Customers range from food stamp users looking for one of Mission Fish and Poultry's great deals - like 5 pounds of chicken legs and thighs for \$5.99, to Russian immigrant families from the avenues buying salmon eggs to make caviar. Restaurants such as Val21, Moa, Esperpento, Burger Joint and Chile Lindo also shop at Scialanga's market. The poultry department includes both free-range chicken and turkey, a consideration for Thanksgiving shoppers who want more taste in the white meat; a more interesting texture in the drumsticks, and an absence of farm feed additives. Duck, quail and goose are also available, as is rabbit, which is neither fish nor fowl, but sometimes, a welcome change of pace.

My own favorite item is salmon trout; rainbow trout fed on a diet of shrimp, giving it a salmon pinkness and humongous size. If you're hapless in the kitchen, you can effortlessly make a savory meal of one of these tasty swimmers, with just tin foil, a broiler and a modicum of attentiveness. More exotic items include gaar, crayfish, gasper goo (a fresh water bass) and buffalo fish. Eel is even held in stock for a few

special, mostly Filipino, customers. Keeping tabs on the tastes of a dozen different cultures, and fitting the result into forty feet of display place is no easy feat.

Mission Fish and Poultry faces both price rises, generated from state fishing restrictions, and competition from non-union butchers, but has met these and other challenges with a well hewn sense of the market and by building a customer loyalty that sometimes spans generations. Bob Scialanga puts it this way: "Over the years our menu has changed depending on the clientele, but what we do is basic: service, quality and selection. That's what it's all about - giving people what they want. The people in the Mission are fantastic and I've seen more than one generation. When I worked with my dad as a youngster, a customer would come in and Dad would say 'I remember you when you were just a little boy.' And I'd think 'What corn.' Now I'll see people come in with their kids, who I knew when they were kids themselves and I'll say the same thing my dad said. It's a cycle I guess, like salmon swimming up stream." Loyalty also spans the Bay, and many former Mission residents now living in the suburbs will make an occasional foray into the city, just to shop at their favorite market.

The fish and poultry are fresh; the values are old-fashioned, and that's a winning combination.

Mission Fish and Poultry is located in the Mission Market 2590 Mission Street on the corner of 22nd and Mission. Hours are Monday through Saturday 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. Tel. 415/282-3331

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You can count on a full plate at Café Istanbul. Photo by Bea Ahbeck

There's lotsa' mazas at re-opened local favorite Café Istanbul

By Saida Benguerel

Restaurants are popping up (and closing down) on the Valencia Street corridor faster than you can say "babaganouj with a side of tabuli." But one long standing favorite, Café Istanbul, has persevered and even managed to evolve with the changing dynamics of the neighborhood.

What was once a small, cozy and often crowded restaurant has recently re-opened after months of renovations. Aside from expanding into the adjoining space, they have added large street front windows and whimsical Middle Eastern facades. A ceiling mural of gently floating clouds and other fantastical touches transport diners into the far off land of milk and honey.

Western style seating is available, but try the more preferable ottoman style cushions at low tables for the best view of the Carnival-like parade that is Valencia Street. The juxtaposition between the dreamy interior and harsher world outside is rife for conversation. Order a Turkish coffee (served in its own miniature pot) and unwind in the relaxing atmosphere to the sounds of Middle Eastern music, while the street scene provides the entertainment.

Choose from any of the sixteen starters known as Mazas. Mazas, or meze, are Middle Eastern hors d'oeuvres and have become increasingly popular in the American diet. Even hummus is now available at every Safeway, Noah's and Cash and Carry across the U.S. The menu at Café Istanbul offers many familiar mazas such as hummus, tabouli, and falafel. These are all reasonably priced (\$2.95- \$4.95) and are served with fresh warmed pita bread. Along with the traditional favorites they serve several regional specialties such as *Imam Bayildi*, eggplant with onions, garlic, tomatoes and bell peppers (\$5.25), and *Mutabel*, eggplant with parsley, tomatoes and chopped walnuts (\$3.95). If you're overwhelmed with the choices, you can start the meal with the generously portioned Middle Eastern Mix, which is a sampling of maza for \$9.95.

The babaganouj is some of the best available in this town (up there with Kan Zaman's on Haight St.). Thick without being porridge-like and smoky without tasting burnt, it holds a perfect medley of Middle Eastern flavors. The hummus is also well balanced and smooth of texture.

For a condiment that has so few ingredients (chickpeas, olive oil, garlic, and tahini) a good hummus is hard to find. If you are a hummus snob, as so many are forced to be these days, you'll agree that the hummus at Café Istanbul is outstanding.

All of Café Istanbul's main dishes are of the same superior quality. One particular item that is known throughout the Middle East but is rare to find on quickie shawarma and falafel shop menus, is *Borek*. Boreks are a lot like *spanikopita* in that they are a variety of savory fillings wrapped in oil rich filo dough. Café Istanbul's version of Chicken Borek is a round, self-contained pie of filo dough embracing a savory mixture of sliced chicken breast, julienned carrots, herbs and seasonings. The presentation is complete with a side of tabouli nestled in a leaf of green lettuce. The serving size is generous enough for one very hungry person, or to provide a 'doggie bag' for someone else.

The Spinach Pie was actually two large triangles of a spinach and feta cheese mixture wrapped in dough and grilled over an open flame. The salty, crumbly feta is a perfect foil for what is normally a bland leafy green, and the spinach pie at Café Istanbul is a delicious example. And again the helping was generous.

Café Istanbul is a great place to drop in for a quick pre-movie bite or for a more formal or special occasion dinner such as a birthday or first date. If at all possible, ask for seating by the front windows so you can watch the world traipse by while you recline in comfort.

Café Istanbul is located at 525 Valencia St. 863-8854

Health Matters



Richard Pitt

Natural products and profit

I thought to carry on from the topic of last month's article, in which I discussed the financial implications of the huge interest in natural products. I mentioned that many people are expressing concern in the quality of many "natural" products and how there is a move to regulate them and even make them available by prescription only. The major concern others bring up about this is that it would put vitamins, herbs and other natural products into the hands of the pharmaceutical industry who could reap huge profits from this. The restriction in access and the profit going to large companies has to make this idea highly questionable.

However, there is already a very unseemly side to the marketing of so-called "natural" products. One of these is the selling of products through a process called network marketing. It works in the following way: a product is made available not through stores but is marketed by individuals who when they sell the product to another person get a cut of the profit. If the second person comes into the system and then sells the product to another person the first two people both get a slice of the profit.

This way people are encouraged to sell as much as they can as they get a certain percentage of future sales of not only the people they sell to but of sales to people who are the next few levels down. This type of system used to be called pyramid selling. This is slightly different but it has a similar structure. This system of

selling is growing in all areas of business, not only in the arena of natural products.

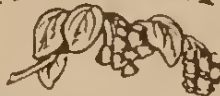
In reading much of the literature from different companies, the promises made are that it can give you an independent means of income that can go as high as \$10,000 a month, or more. That it will give you the freedom to pursue your dreams, and at the same time make you feel good about selling something that is good for people. It avoids middlemen and the profit goes to the people. Sounds good.

However, the more one reads of this the more it just sounds like new-age capitalism with a kind of dreamy "I deserve to be rich" hype. The people who get involved in this will see all their friends and acquaintances as potential customers and it may compromise those relationships. It puts personal financial interests above everything else. It produces the kind of zeal seen in spiritual cults where the people involved have to justify to themselves that this is the best thing since sliced bread. Anybody who has been on the receiving end of this will know what it is like.

There are many products sold this way, from water filters to blue-green algae to bizarre things like a weight-loss patch made with homeopathic remedies. The last one would be just hilarious except that I have received lots of e-mail about it and I presume people are buying it. It is simply exploitation and the opposite of what natural healing should be about.

Richard Pitt is a homeopathic educator and director of the Pacific Academy of Homeopathy.

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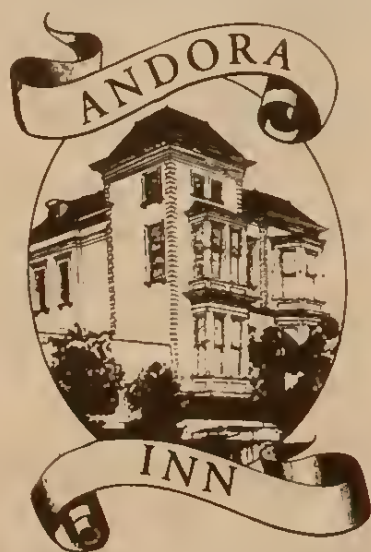
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Rock - en - español, (Rock - in - Spanish). Perhaps you've never heard "Rock" music from Mexico, Peru or Argentina. We are so accustomed to relate "Rock" to England or the U.S. that we forget that there is a "Rock" generation in Iran, Greece and of course, Latin America. There is a global Rock generation expressing their vision, realities and anxieties in their own voice and language.

In Latin America the "Rock-en-español," or "Latin Rock" movement began in Argentina during the late '70s early '80s. That the "Latin Rock" movement came out of Argentina does not surprise me since Argentina has historically had close ties with the country that gave birth to "Rock," Great Britain. Ties that stem from Prince Charles' polo interests in this country to the Falkland-Malvinas war, which took place at the time the Broadway hit "Evita" opened in London to sold-out performances. In fact, the lead singer of Zumo, Luca Prodan, left England to Argentina to shake a heroin addiction only to find booze, drugs, and success with one of the pioneer "Latin Rock" Argentinian groups, Zumo.

Chile followed suit with rock groups that voiced protests to the Pinochet dictatorship, such as *Los Prisioneros*. By 1985, young people in Argentina and Chile had stopped partying to rock music in English and an entire generation relates to a rock movement in their own language, "Rock Latino". By late '80s, Mexico joined the movement, as well as Mexicans out of Los Angeles giving Rock Latino a kaleidoscope of cultural influences that can be appreciated right here in our Mission by the up and coming group Zudaka

Nace ZUDAKA

Zudaka is a derogatory term out of Spain for Latin Americans, "sudamericano", or South American. In other words, Spain's version of "Spic." Characteristically, Latin Americans pay little attention to what's politically correct or incorrect and instead, make it their own. Born in the Mission, Zudaka here brings to mind a talented, extremely versatile group of musicians that have persevered for three years and accomplished their own sound: Zudaka is the Mission's own "Rock-en-español" group. Zudaka joined together lead singer, Juan Cuba from Peru; Francisco Ferrer, lead guitar, from Mexico; Adrian Dobarro, bass, from Argentina; Gabriel Arganaras, sax, from Argentina; José Vergelin, drums, from Argentina and Mauricio Bertin, keyboards, guitar and vocals, from Chile.

Each member of Zudaka brings his own different musical background and experiences, Latin American Folklore, Nueva Trova and the rich sound of "música afro-peruana", Mexican Boleros, Protest music, Black people's music such as funk of the '70s, Jazz, and Andean music are the various influences that make up the Zudaka sound.

"SoMos"

On October 16, Zudaka held a sold out performance at the Mission Cultural Center Theater. "SoMos" was organized by the members of Zudaka in collaboration with dance artists, performance artists and the Audio Visual department of the MCC. The performance took two months of hard work to organize. Zudaka played mostly original tunes while a colorful video of the Mission's murals and local folks was projected in the background. "SoMos" was very professionally put together in every aspect. The theme of the performance was the "poli-facetic nature of being human," something Zudaka should know a thing or two about considering they bring to the Mission a sound that goes from the tango, to the bolero, to funk, ska, and reggae.

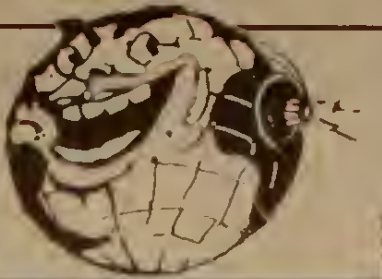
The venues for Rock-en-español are very few in the Bay Area, most are in San José. In fact, in the Mission District there is not one venue per se, but as Zudaka builds a greater and greater following, I'm sure we will see them headlining a few clubs around the Mission and the City.



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Round World Music Review

Robert Leaver



Encuentro del Canto Popular

For seventeen years in a row Accion Latina has presented an annual autumn showcase of bands from all over Latin America. The Encuentro del Canto Popular / Latin American Music Festival will take place Friday, November 13th & Saturday, November 14th at Korinthias Community Center, 245 Valencia St. (near Duboce St.) - doors open at 7 P.M.; tickets are \$15.

This year's headliner will be legendary Puerto Rican cuatro guitarist Yomo Toro who has played on many classic Puerto Rican & Salsa recordings in addition to making his own. His repertoire of plena, bomba, and salsa is extensive and powerful as heard on his great recording from a couple of years ago, *Celebremos Navidad*. His band will include the famous salsa singer, Jerry Medina, and percussionists Karl Perazzo & Raul Rekow of Santana, and the excellent pianist, band-leader, composer, Reheeca Mauléon.

There will also be a spoken word segment featuring Puerto Rican poet and author Piri Thomas, as well as Daniel Sánchez, and Norman Zelayas. Friday's performance includes the groups Quetzal from East L.A., who play a mix of Mexican and contemporary urban music, and Taller Boricua. Saturday the Mission District's own Los Mocosos featuring vocalist Piero El Malo, founder of Los Angelitos, will mix Mexican styles with rock and ska with a big brass section and a DJ on the turntables; also a group of young musicians and singers from San Pablo who play traditional music from different regions of Mexico, Los Cenzontles, will play.

The guest of honor will be baseball legend Orlando Cepeda and there will be a raffle to aid victims of Hurricane Georges and the Chiapas flooding. Prizes include S.F. Giants tickets and memorabilia. For information call 252-5957.

Round World Productions continues Wednesdays at the Elbo Room. Veteran Bay Area Latin Jazz giants John Santos & Machete Ensemble featuring Orestes Vilató will play on November 2 at 10 P.M. - two sets for a mere six dollars. November 11 and November 25 a new dance group, Desearga Con Funk, will lay down Salsa/Funk/Jazz. Members of the band include arranger John Calloway on keyboards & flute, Grammy-nominated producer Greg Landau on guitar and tres guitar, band-leader and monster conguero Jesús Diaz, Josh Jones, the funky drummer, who also has his own jazz and hip-hop groups, arranger and Mingus Amungus (among others) man Marty Wehner on trombone, vocalist/rapper Manny Martinez, with righteous bi-lingual words, and versatile Geoff Brennan on bass.

This promises to be a fresh new musical environment and DJ BAABA-LOUP spins for your dancing pleasure. All for only five dollars at 10 P.M.

Cuban music is certainly on the world stage right now. The Afro-Cuban All Stars, who include most of the musicians from Buena Vista Social Club completed a



Guitarist Yomo Toro

national tour playing large university performance spaces to sold-out ecstatic audiences. Cubanismo came through on their third tour of the states playing prestigious venues supporting their third record and *El Médico de La Salsa*, Manolin, just played almost unnoticed, in New York and Los Angeles. It is interesting to see the difference between what's popular in Cuba and what is popular here. In Cuba very few people listen to the classic Cuban son or any older material. Most people listen to contemporary Cuban salsa, or timba, as it's called.


The biggest artists of late in Cuba are undoubtedly Paulito, El Médico, Manolito y su Trabuco, & Los Van Van. Of these the only group to enjoy universal success outside Cuba is Los Van Van, and after all they are, arguably, the best Cuban dance band of the last twenty years.

The others enjoy some success in Spain and Italy but have not made it here whereas the groups that have made it here like Cubanismo and Afro-Cuban All Stars are essentially unknown in Cuba. They may have some famous older musicians who are known but you would be unlikely to hear them in Cuba. It seems that there are two distinct markets for Cuban music-domestic and export- and the two worlds couldn't be more different.

Depending on your perspective the music that makes it here is either classic or museum-piece and what's popular in La Habana is funky, sexy, hot dance music or formulaic disposable pop. Is the world ready to accept the new youth of Cuba or only the old timeless image? In the words of Charanga Hahnera, "hagamos un chen, como te pago, en cheque o en efectivo" (we're making change, will that be cash or check?).



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